

Tuesday September 1 1998

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The Guardian

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

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Hugo Young

I'm not putting my shirt on Clinton

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From sombre to surreal, from prayers to an Egyptian curse



Crowds of people gathering yesterday around the monument to Princess Diana at the scene of last year's car crash in Paris. PHOTOGRAPH BY LONEL GRONNEAU



The tourists and their cameras outnumber the mourners and their floral tributes. Mass public grief has given way to private sorrow. **Matthew Engel** reports on the mood one year after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales

AT DIFFERENT times and different places yesterday, the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, lurched uneasily from the sombre to the surreal. Both the Windsor and Spencer families opted for a discreet and apparently co-templative day at Balmoral and Althorp. This approach was emphatically not shared by Mohamed al Fayed, who marked the occasion with one of his more startling outbursts.

A sudden outbreak of comparative indifference, meanwhile, seemed to take hold of the populace. At the main shrines to Diana's memory — her home at Kensington Palace, her burial site at Althorp and the crash site in Paris — the flowers and messages re-appeared, in a miniature reprise of events a year ago. However, there was little public emotion. And late yesterday there was still plenty of room to place bouquets on Kensington Pal-

ace's gates and railings. Before the funeral, the whole area was carpeted. The most self-conscious attempt to re-create that mood came at Balmoral. Mr Fayed, the store's owner and father of Diana's lover Dodi, who was killed with her, erected a 10ft-high memorial to them both in the shop window.

It featured pictures of them on a sort of altar, surrounded by flowers and a frieze. Mr Fayed then turned up and announced that "thousands of people" were waiting for him. "They are ordinary people who give me support. They will not accept the establishment or people being black-balled. I will not rest. If it is not an accident and if it is murder, be sure that whoever did this murder will not escape from God. If they believe they are more powerful than God then people will come after them. My Egyptian curse will not let them get away with it."



There were indeed thousands of people present, but most appeared to be Mr Fayed's customers, rather than his supporters. Diana's relatives remained as far as possible out of the public gaze. Princess William and Harry prayed at Cathie Kirk near Balmoral with their father

and other members of the royal family. Her sisters, Sarah and Jane, joined her brother, Karl Spencer, at Althorp, the family estate in Northamptonshire. A private memorial service was held by the lake where she is buried.

Among those who appeared at Kensington Palace was a middle-aged man who shouted at mourners: "Look at you second-class citizens! She was a nobody!" He was frogmarched away by the police, but later released after being cautioned. The general mood, however, was what you expect in a royal park on a sunny Bank Holiday afternoon. Exactly one year earlier, when photographers were being blamed for the crash, people with cameras were threatened by those with flowers. One year on, almost everyone had a camera to page 2, column 3

Web reports at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

James Meek in Moscow

RUSSIA'S political foes, President Boris Yeltsin and parliament, were last night locked in their potentially most dangerous confrontation after angry MPs dealt a humiliating defeat to Viktor Chernomyrdin, the acting prime minister supposed to rescue the country from the economic abyss.

After a contemptuous 251 to 94 vote in the state Duma against his becoming prime minister, Mr Chernomyrdin declared he would begin forming a government anyway. He was immediately renominated for the post by Mr Yeltsin.

With the Duma seemingly set on rejecting his choice again, and Mr Yeltsin equally stubborn in nominating no other candidate, parliament could be dissolved within a fortnight, setting the country on an unknown political path.

With all large business transactions frozen for the second week running, and shops running out of the stocks they bought before the rouble plunged, ordinary Russians will start to feel the pinch within days.

President Bill Clinton, who arrives in Moscow today for a three-day visit, risks becoming a participant in the conflict between Mr Yeltsin, Mr Chernomyrdin and parliament. President Yeltsin, who has lost much of what remained of his authority, is likely to swing with "friend Bill" as a badge of his weight in the world.

The lack of a confirmed government will delay plans by Tony Blair to call an emergency meeting of Group of Seven ministers to discuss the Russian crisis.

Mr Blair held a 20-minute telephone call with Mr Yeltsin last night. As chairman of G7, the Prime Minister told Mr Yeltsin the group was ready to help, but that it must be linked to Russia continuing a programme of economic reform, a Downing Street spokesman said.

currency next year should hold talks. The EU is Russia's largest trading partner.

"Forty per cent of Russia's foreign trade is with Europe, and only 5 per cent is with the United States," Mr Silguy said. "But it's Clinton who's going to Russia on Tuesday. We have the means to act."

There is still no clear sign of which way Moscow will move fiscally to head off the emergency, although the former Argentinian economics minister Domingo Cavallo, who stopped inflation with a currency squeeze and tough privatisation, arrived in Moscow to offer his advice.

Few expected Mr Chernomyrdin to be backed by the Duma yesterday, but even he was taken aback by the attacks. Most speakers blamed his time as prime minister in 1992-96 for bringing Russia to its simultaneous debt default and devaluation two weeks ago. They demanded that Mr Yeltsin agree to a government formed by the parliamentary majority.

"You would not be able to cope, and there would be a collapse still deeper than that which has already taken place," Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist leader and head of the dominant left-patriot coalition, told Mr Chernomyrdin. "The criminal-oligarchic authorities would be bloodier in future. A dictatorship would be guaranteed."

He claimed he could call on the support of two-thirds of MPs and the upper house to have an effective coalition government in place before the end of the week.

Earlier one of the most powerful Russian businessmen, the close Chernomyrdin ally and backroom kingmaker Bo-

ris Berezovsky, said Mr Chernomyrdin's government should start working whatever the Duma decided.

"President Boris Yeltsin wants Viktor Chernomyrdin to become the prime minister, and I do not recall a case such as this where he changed his mind," he said.

Mr Chernomyrdin said after the vote yesterday that he would set up an acting government to begin work today. "A state cannot live without a government," he said. "Steps must be taken to pay arrears to the military, students and coal miners. I will deal with this."

It was not clear where the money would come from, although Moscow is rife with rumours that the rouble-printing presses have already begun to turn. Most miners are owed back wages by semi-private coal companies rather than by the government.

In yesterday's parliamentary debate the leader of the liberal Yabloko movement, Grigory Yavlinsky, reminded Mr Chernomyrdin that it was during his government that barter and IOUs became the dominant means of exchange in the economy that business became criminalised. "It was under this very prime minister that Russia became a world leader in corruption," he said.

Mr Yavlinsky, who on Sunday said Yabloko was ready to form a government, called on Mr Yeltsin to resign.

If parliament rejects his choice twice more, the president can dissolve it.

Markets crash, page 2; Clinton in Moscow, page 6; That falling feeling, and Hugo Young, page 8

Sri Lanka's 9-wicket hero

ENGLISH cricket's own-found optimism, which had survived intact for all of three weeks since the series victory over South Africa, was swept aside yesterday by a Sri Lankan Taniol with one of the most extraordinary bowling actions in Test history. **David Hopps** writes



he would be making representations about the legality of the off-spinner's action. **Leader comment, page 9; Sport, pages 15-16**

Lewinsky seeks \$10m for book

Martin Kettle in Washington

ONE million dollars and rising. Two million. Six million. When the price is right, Monica Lewinsky will sell her story to the highest bidder for a record sum — and the bidding war is now on.

As President Bill Clinton fled to Moscow yesterday, the New York publishing world was alive with rumours that the woman with whom the president confessed an "inappropriate" relationship was holding out for a record-breaking \$10 million for her story. Ms Lewinsky already has a

standing offer from the US supermarket tabloid Star to tell all for \$1 million. But according to a report in the New Yorker magazine, Robert Murdoch's HarperCollins publishing giant offered Ms Lewinsky \$2 million in an exclusive book deal last week. The New Yorker added that another "undisclosed publisher" had made "a confidential \$8 million offer", a sum only ever exceeded by the \$6.5 million paid to General Colin Powell for his memoirs — also by HarperCollins.

But according to the New York Post tabloid — also owned by Mr Murdoch — the former White House intern has refused all bids so far. The paper claims that all the negotiations are being handled by Ms Lewinsky's mother, Marcia Lewis, who has urged her daughter to stand out for \$10 million. Ms Lewis has been round the book-bidding course before as the author of a tell-all 1996 biography of the Three Tenors, in which she hinted at an inappropriate relationship between herself and Placido Domingo.

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Inside

Britain
Pharmacy, the trendy Notting Hill restaurant backed by artist Damien Hirst, followed the flood of eateries joining the stock market.

Britain
Road rage suspect Kenneth Noye could be back in Britain within weeks once a formal request for his extradition from Spain is made.

World News
Osama bin Laden, the Saudi militant, is rapidly gaining hero status among Afghans since America's cruise missile attack.

Sport
The England captain Alan Shearer has come out against the proposed European Super League, and said the league is wrong.

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In G2 Education today Do graduate novelists pose a real threat to the established literary?

How a Cambridge don singlehandedly set back G2 bridge attempts to establish a new literary canon

Hardliners in Pyongyang 'overplay their hand' □ Tokyo warns of serious impact on security

North Korea fires missile over Japan



John Gittings in Hong Kong, Jonathan Watts in Tokyo and James Mack in Moscow

NORTH Korea yesterday stirred up a strategic weapons storm in the Pacific by launching a new, long-range, ballistic missile which overflew Japan before splashing down in the ocean.

In extended television news broadcasts, commentators claimed that the new missile is capable of carrying a 1,000kg nuclear, chemical or conventional warhead.

Considering the risks to Pyongyang, some Japanese analysts speculated that the missile's trajectory may have been caused by a malfunction of new technology — a chilling thought for those under the flight path.

Japan's defence agency said the incident would encourage the government to approve plans to develop a missile defence system with the US.

Alarm bells sounded in Moscow after reports that Russia's early warning systems failed to spot the North Korean missile. Defence officials later claimed they had been able to track it.

"We see this as a very dangerous act," a senior Japanese government spokesman, Hirumu Nonaka, warned. "It will have a serious impact on the security of North-east Asia."

Japan plans further protests through diplomatic channels.

Pyongyang's cry for world attention shattered the limits of Western tolerance when it emerged that the Daepodong-1 rocket passed without permission through Japanese airspace.

Recognising for the first time that it is in range of its militaristic neighbour, Tokyo promptly responded by withdrawing financial backing for the International KEDO agreement which provides funds for peaceful nuclear technology and energy supplies to the beleaguered Communist regime.

"We see this as a very dangerous act," a senior Japanese government spokesman, Hirumu Nonaka, warned. "It will have a serious impact on the security of North-east Asia."

Pyongyang's action is alarming not just in itself but because its motives are often impenetrable. North Korea's neighbours are used to Pyongyang playing the bad boy; if the missile did not malfunction and was intended to overfly Japan, however, it must have been designed to cause a strong reaction.

Such behaviour may appear deeply misguided for a country suffering acute hardship, with millions of its population desperately short of food. But North Korean leaders believe that its missile and nuclear potential is the only card left to play.

Pyongyang's action may be

a clumsy attempt to gain the upper hand in negotiations with the US to implement the 1994 nuclear deal due to resume today in New York. But this time hardliners in the leadership may have gone too far in seeking to please Kim Jong-il.

Before details of the missile overflight became clear, KEDO had announced that South Korea would fund 70 per cent of a \$3 billion deal on supplying peaceful nuclear technology to the North. Japan, the US and the EU are also contributors.

North Korea watchers believe the test is timed to coincide with next week's 50th anniversary of the establishment of the regime. Mr Kim is expected to be formally named as state president when the national assembly meets on Saturday.

The Daepodong-1 missile is believed to have a range of 1,300 miles — twice that of the Rodong medium-range missile which North Korea has exported to Iran, Iraq and Syria. There are concerns

that a version with twice the range is now on the drawing board.

Last week the US expressed concern that North Korea is working on a huge underground project near Yongbyon, the country's main nuclear complex. In the 1994 accord, Pyongyang agreed to freeze its nuclear weapons programme in exchange for civil-use nuclear technology and supplies of fuel oil.

Over the weekend there were indications that North Korea would allow inspection of the site.

Pyongyang complains that the US and Japan have failed to deliver all that was promised and that supplies of fuel oil for this year have fallen short.

The scare came as a fresh gap opened up in Russia's increasingly patchy early warning coverage. An anti-missile radar in Skrunda, Latvia, was switched off, leaving European Russia with less reliable warning of possible rocket attack from the north and the west.

Russian bear gives Wall St a mauling

Alex Brummer in London
Martin Walker in Brussels

SHARES on Wall Street made their third biggest fall in turbulent trading yesterday as the political deadlock in Moscow took a further toll on the financial markets. The Dow Jones index closed 512 points, or 6.37 per cent, down.

Dealers around the world appeared unimpressed by the first signs that leaders of the major western economies had begun intense consultations on how to respond to the Russian crisis.

The European Commission called for an emergency meeting of Europe's finance ministers to agree a common strategy, with the Commission officials lobbying for something more positive than the current policy of no assistance until the Russians enact fundamental reforms.

"Russia concerns us far more than it does the Americans," said finance commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy. "We have the means to act and to intervene. We have a full range of possible actions we can take, starting with a common European position."

The renewed efforts by the Europeans to plot a strategy, after almost two weeks of inaction, came amid signs of increasing activity among heads of government of the Group of Seven leading industrial countries. Tony Blair, as chairman of the G7, is coming under pressure to call an emergency meeting so as to plot a concrete response to the crisis. G7 finance ministers are scheduled to meet at the end of this month.

The need to calm the markets was hammered home in bank holiday trading when markets outside London, which was closed, fell again. The biggest fall came in Hong Kong where the Hang Seng tumbled 554.70 points, or 7 per cent. The European market index, the Dax, falling 144 points or 2.32 per cent.

In Russia, the slide in the rouble and share prices, which began two weeks ago with the devaluation of the currency, continued unabated. The rouble has now been devalued by 20 per cent, against the initial target of around 7 per cent.

In limited trading on the Moscow stock exchange shares slipped 1.16 per cent, which brings the decline this year to more than 80 per cent. Wall Street opened nervously, with the Dow Jones plunging 170 points in early trading, wiping out all the gains this year as the market staged one of the fastest declines in its history. The losses took the Dow Jones index back through the 8,000 level, which had been broken for the first time since February. Having failed to find support at this level, there were suggestions that it still has some way to go.

There was some recovery in South America with the Brazilian and Mexican markets climbing, although they remain 34 per cent and 39 per cent down on the year.

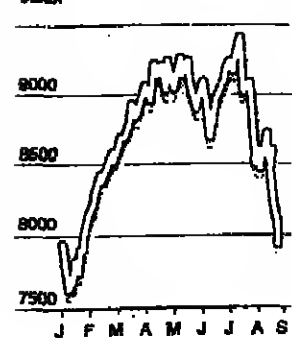
The key question for European policymakers is whether the EU is prepared to offer Russia any balance of payments support, in return for a renegotiation of the Russian debt which could avert a default. The statements so far of the G7 countries and of Germany's finance minister, Theo Waigel, who has insisted there be no new money, suggest that any serious policy change is unlikely.

The Commission wants to be seen to be doing something, however, if only to dampen the over-optimism in the markets whether the Russian turmoil might affect the planned January 1 launch of Europe's single currency.

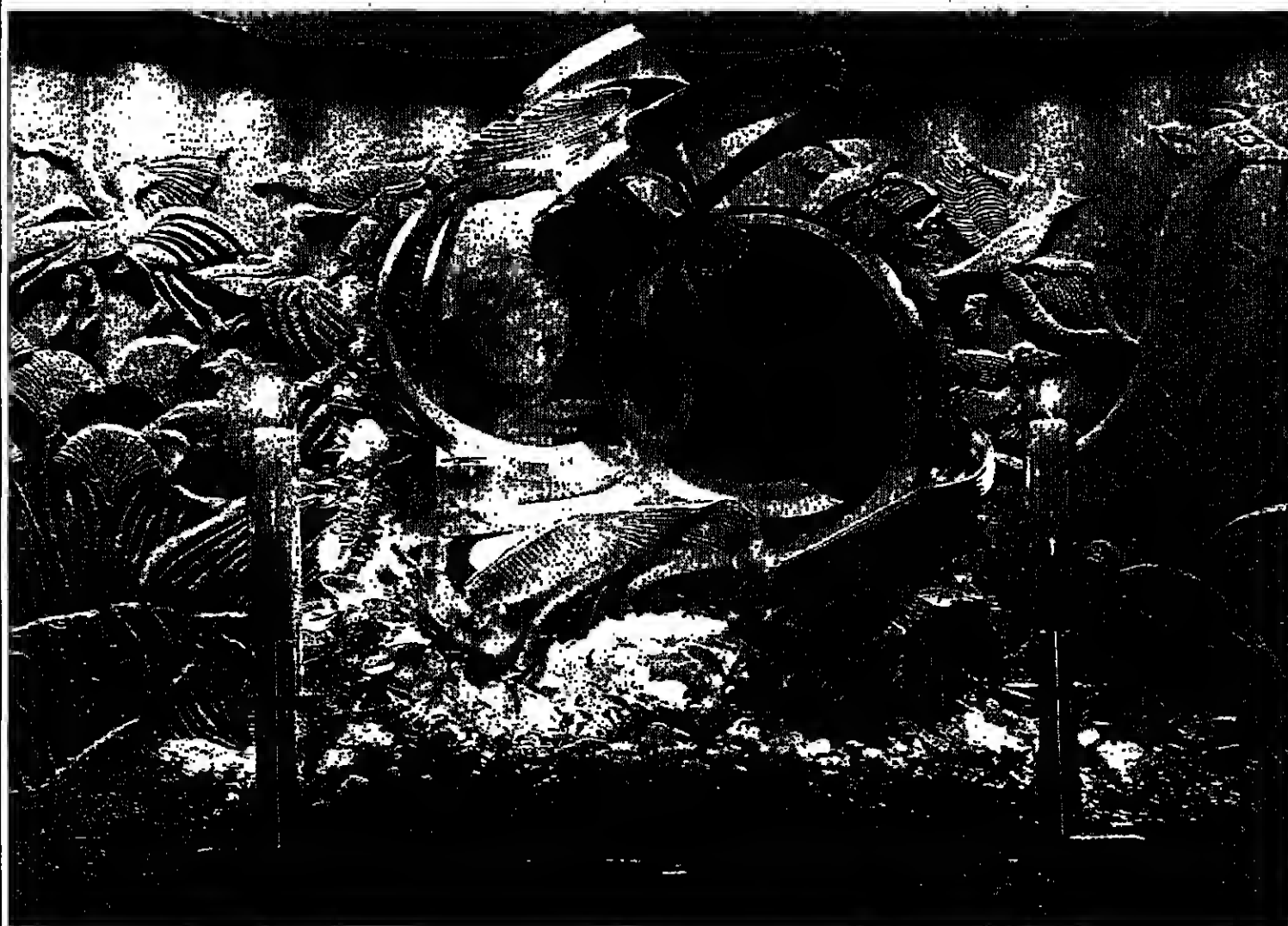
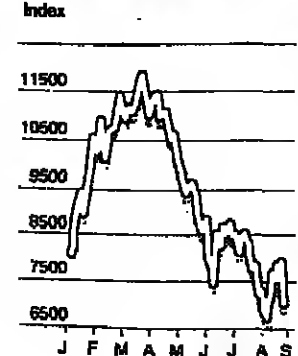
Mr de Silguy stressed that a victory for Russia's Communists, leading to re-nationalisation of strategic industries and defiance of the International Monetary Fund recommendations, would mean a complete end to Western support.

That falling feelings, page 8; London expects, page 11

Dow Jones



Hang Seng



The memorial to Princess Diana and Dodi al-Fayed, which was unveiled yesterday at Harrods in Knightsbridge, London. PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD HEATHCOTE

From sombre to surreal, from prayer to curse

continued from page 1
era. TV crews were alert for anyone weeping, but it was hard going.

At Buckingham Palace, there were no flowers at all, and everyone outside was a happy-snappy tourist. The flag flew at half-mast, as it famously did not a year ago. But there was no other sign of mourning.

Westminster cathedral, the focal point of British Catholicism, held a well-attended memorial mass. But even here there were seats available. And with a large chunk of London literally on fire for the Notting Hill carnival, there was a sense that Diana was being

upstaged for the first time since her death.

However, a new and potent shrine has emerged as a place of homage. This is La Flamme de la Liberté, the monument by the Seine above the underpass where the most famous car crash in history occurred. It was erected in 1987 by the International Herald Tribune newspaper, and is meant to symbolise Franco-American unity. But it has now been wholly taken over as a totem for devotees of Diana.

This is clearly welcomed by the French police, as it keeps gawkers away from the entrance to the underpass, where they can stare at the 13th pillar into which Henri

Paul drove the Mercedes that fateful night, but run the risk of being mown down by cars travelling at Parisian speeds, if not often at 120 mph. The flame is above the western end of the underpass, which the car never reached.

Crowds gathered there in the early hours yesterday as the exact moment of the crash — 12.25pm Paris time on August 31 — came round again. On cue, a fair-haired young man began a soulfully funeral song. He turned out to be an American actor, rather strapped for work.

American TV crews sought out suitable interviewees willing to emot on camera: "What are your feelings at

this time?" "I'm still shocked," said a tourist, before she went off giggling.

The flame has become a new destination on the Paris tourist map — cheaper than the Eiffel Tower, less taxing than the Louvre — like Jim Morrison's grave, but more accessible from the Metro.

There were flowers here too. But the messages affected Diana's appeal as a figure who transcended national boundaries: UNE GRANDE PENSEE A UNE FEMME EXTRAORDINAIRE. DIANA, WIR LIEBEN DICH. NO TE OLVIDAMOS.

NUNCA. The graffiti cover the monument itself and now stretch along the walls almost

down to the underpass exit. But here too there is a sense of cynicism setting in. FART KING RULES! has slipped in among all the adoration.

It was a perfect summer's night by the Seine, with a half-moon hanging in a purple sky. It was a night for lovers. But the world's most famous lovers died.

Future anniversaries will pass, perhaps, with less notice. The flowers will grow fewer. Perhaps even the Daily Mail will let occasional weeks pass without special Diana supplements. But if this story is ready to move out of the newspapers, it will be printed on the tourist maps of the world forever.

Muted welcome for royal party

Gerard Seenan
Scotland Correspondent

IN THE frozen mist of a Highland morning, perhaps only 50 people came to Craithie to pay their respects on the first anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

At 9.30am the Royal Family, with the Prime Minister and his wife, Cherie, drove across the River Dee to the Kirk.

The onlookers strained to catch sight of Prince William and Prince Harry. Few caught more than a glimpse.

At the private 15-minute prayer service in memory of their mother, the princes took their traditional place in the south transept of the 100-year-old church.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Right Rev Alan Main, read from Romans VIII: "There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus but after the spirit."

The royal chaplain at Deeside, the Rev Robert Sloan, read the Psalm of David — "The Lord is my Shepherd" — and from Isaiah XLV: "Comfort ye, my people saith your God."

Princes William and Harry would have found their comfort in a greater royal cooing than is usually seen at Craithie: their father, the Prince of Wales, the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Andrew and his children, Princess Anne with her daughter Sarah Phillips, and Prince Edward with Sophie Rhys-Jones.

As the royal family left the grey granite Kirk, a small group of well-wishers stood waiting at the gates of Balmoral.

Prince William nodded shyly as one woman held out the bunch of roses she had brought to lay at the castle gates.

The roses later took their place beside eight other bouquets.

NHS 'only just managing' to cope with pressure

Severe winter or a flu epidemic could tip balance, report warns

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

PRESSURE on staff in the NHS is at an all-time high and services are "only just managing", a government-appointed specialist group has warned ministers as they demand ever-greater efforts to cut waiting lists.

That the system coped last winter owed much to the mild weather and low levels of flu, the group says. "Long spells of severe weather or a flu epi-

dem next winter will pose serious problems."

The group, comprising doctors, nurses and health managers, also warns that the NHS cannot continue on a crisis-management basis, with patient numbers growing remorselessly.

"It is apparent that traditional patterns of service delivery, dominated by a dependence on hospital in-patient stays for emergency admissions, followed by post-discharge care in nursing homes [or] residential care, are unsustainable."

The Emergency Services Action Team was set up to advise the Government on how health and social services deal with winter pressures — and how they could do it better.

Its second report, covering last winter, says services made good use of their shares of the extra £200 million found by ministers to help avert a winter crisis.

However, Chris Bunch, the group's chairman and medical director of the Oxford Radcliffe hospital, says in a foreword: "The system was not severely tested, and serious concerns remain about the capacity to respond to a severe winter." There were 30,000 fewer deaths in Eng-

land and Wales between November 1997 and February this year than there had been the previous winter. Although emergency hospital admissions rose 3.3 per cent, it was the lowest increase for five years.

Non-emergency, or "elective", admissions rose 1.7 per cent, but the number of patients waiting for treatment fell 1.7 per cent.

The group, which visited 11 parts of England, says all hospitals it saw were operating at bed-occupancy levels of at least 95 per cent. Without more "headroom" the system was too inflexible and vulnerable to surges in demand and, as beds are rarely left empty, to infection outbreaks. "As one manager commented to us: 'Hot-bedding means turn-

ing the bed round in 20 minutes. It is impossible to carry out proper infection control procedures in that time."

The group also found a number of hospitals dependent on casual agency staff.

"We were left in no doubt that the pressure on staff is having an adverse impact on recruitment and retention," the report says.

Since the special winter funding ended, and elective admissions have accelerated to cut waiting lists, services have only just been managing, the report says. In the long term, steps must be taken to reduce emergency admissions.

An estimated 20 per cent of such admissions need not be

treated at hospital, it says, while one study found that 40 per cent of patients taken to hospital after 999 calls were discharged within four hours.

Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, last week wrote to NHS and social services units to thank them for last winter's efforts. But he warned of the "very tough agenda" facing them in the coming months.

Although the Government has announced extra funding for the NHS, with a cumulative increase worth £21 billion over the next three years, the money will not start to become available until next spring.

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'There was a lot of performance ... people were possibly playing up to the cameras. I felt I should have taken drama lessons'



'There wasn't much I could do about my appearance, because conditions in prison were not such that I could do my hair or put make-up on.'

Louise Woodward



Left: The changing image of Louise Woodward during the trial and (above) with lawyer Barry Scheck yesterday.

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: JON SAVAGE

Woodward warns of trial by TV

Beware 'Americanisation' of UK courts, the woman tried before an audience of millions tells media chiefs. **Janine Gibson reports**

DRESSED in black and surrounded by journalists, Louise Woodward gave testimony yesterday, not as a convicted criminal but as the first Englishwoman to be tried on live television.

The 20-year-old former nurse, whose trial for the murder of eight-month-old Matthew Eappen became the most watched and talked about global TV spectacle of the past 12 months, chose an audience of 900 television executives to warn against the "Americanisation" of British courts and the introduction of court TV.

Speaking at the Guardian

International Television Festival in Edinburgh, she said: "I would hate to see it go the way it has in the US ... I think it's inevitable, but I guess I'm just here to say I told you so when it does happen. These are people's lives you're dealing with — this is not a soap opera."

She said the extensive US television coverage had affected her trial: "I was aware there was a lot of performance ... people were possibly playing up to the cameras at a dramatic moment. I felt I should have taken drama lessons."

Pointing out that she had never been asked whether she wanted cameras at her trial,

she said: "I felt it was putting a tremendous stress on everybody ... my aunt was in the courtroom. She was asked to move because the camera didn't have a good shot of my parents. I'm sure it must have been the same for the Eappen family as well."

It's hard enough to be handcuffed in the dock without having a camera trying to get a close shot of my hand."

Miss Woodward and her celebrated American lawyer Barry Scheck — who also defended O. J. Simpson — were taking part in a debate entitled in the Court of Public Opinion. They came, she stressed, because she was asked "to debate and discuss an issue that Barry and I think is an important one."

Although no cameras were allowed in Edinburgh's general assembly to record yesterday's debate, Miss Woodward was under as much scrutiny during her 1½ hour appearance as in the Massa-

chusetts court room where she stood trial.

Dens of journalists recorded every facial expression as she sat composed next to Mr Scheck. Miss Woodward only once referred to her mother, when asked whether she would have agreed to an edited version of her trial being televised afterwards. She said she would not because her privacy would still have been invaded.

The attention, she said, had turned her into a notorious woman. "People don't distinguish between celebrity and notoriety. People do recognise me ... they are treating me like a minor celebrity, but I'm not famous for anything good. I try and explain to them that I'm trying to be a normal 20-year-old, a normal person, and people won't let me."

Having worried that she would be criticised for going on holiday recently, she said that while away "paparazzi-

style photographs of me were sent in [to newspapers] by members of the public".

She had been asked for autographs, and once obliged "because there was a woman who just would not let me out of the restaurant until I did".

Miss Woodward remains unconvinced that strong public opinion swayed the outcome of her trial, perhaps persuading the judge to reduce the conviction from murder to manslaughter.

"I couldn't say what influenced the judge. I hope he made his decision based on the law."

She felt television viewers were not for emotive reasons, in a position to be able to decide the outcome of a trial. "Do you really want the public to be policing the courtroom and making those decisions instead of the 12 people? You may as well have an opinion poll on TV."

She said that she had been aware during the trial of

media comment about her appearance and behaviour and found it off-putting to know "that people were counting how many people I blinked at or how many times I scratched my nose." One newspaper compared her to the nanny from hell because she had scraped her hair back with an elastic band. When she wore a headband instead, the press said she'd done it "to try and make myself look sweet ... My main concern was looking smart for the judge and jury."

Miss Woodward was asked if Mr Scheck's notoriety after the O. J. Simpson trial had affected her adversely or worried her. "Actually, I'd never heard of Barry before. I had to be one of the few people who hadn't watched the O. J. trial," she said.

Mr Scheck said televising trials could either help or hinder a trial. As a founder of the US cable channel Court TV, he was in favour of cam-

eras in court only if everyone involved consented.

Miss Woodward, who said she was "very nervous" about speaking despite her apparent composure, held a press conference after the debate to discuss the issue on camera.

Earlier, she had spoken of the possibility of leading a normal life, and whether she would be able to get married or have children in private. "Eventually my face will fade from people's memories. I hope eventually I'll be able to walk down the street ... I do want to lead a normal life, but I'll expect the press to be there at some point."

She plans to go to university. She was only 18 when in 1996 she went to Boston to work for the Eappen family as an au pair. Less than a year later, she was arrested over Matthew's death and found guilty of murder, a verdict that was reduced to manslaughter. She returned home in June this year.

Confiscation rights in terror bill Patagonia's Channel coup

Government insists measures are more than gesture politics

Michael White
Political Editor

THE Government's anti-terrorist legislation will include the power to seize the goods and property of anyone convicted of belonging to any of the proscribed organisations where it can be proved that the property in question — a car or house — had been used for terrorist activities.

The latest detail of what is being billed as a draconian crackdown — on both loyalist and republican militants who are still resisting the North-

ern Ireland peace process — emerged on the eve of tomorrow's emergency recall of the Commons.

It will pass the Conspiracy and Criminal Evidence Bill in parallel with legislation in the Irish Daily 24 hours before President Clinton flies into Northern Ireland. The Lords will follow suit, after grumbling, on Thursday. Though the bill will not officially be published until tomorrow, a draft will now be made available today for critics to examine.

Civil liberties groups and some MPs and peers in all parties are troubled by both

the speed and content of a crackdown which they fear may prove as counter-productive as some past initiatives. Last night the Government again moved to reassure them it is not simply engaged in gesture politics.

But the former Labour Northern Ireland spokesman, Kevin McNamara, signalled that he would press ahead with tabling a "reasoned amendment" to protest at the lack of time being allowed for the legislation.

Tony McNamara, Labour MP for Hemel Hempstead and a member of the Commons Northern Ireland affairs select committee, insisted the legislation was necessary, and would be backed by the Commons.

The Liberal Democrats'

home affairs spokesman, Alan Beith, said his party believed that urgent legislation was needed to deal with dangerous republican splinter groups.

Four organisations will be formally proscribed in the bill. They are the self-styled Real IRA, which was behind the Omagh bombing the Continuity IRA; the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA); and the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF).

Downing Street officials yesterday revealed a safeguard planned for the short bill's other major change, a sharp widening of the courts' powers to convict British-born individuals engaged in plotting terrorist offences anywhere in the world.

Jon Henley in Paris and Vikram Dodd

THEY are only an uninhabited bunch of rocks south of Jersey, mostly covered by water at high tide. Since 1953, when France lost the Minguiers to Britain, the Union Jack has flown there — but no longer.

According to Jean Raspail, they are now part of the Kingdom of Patagonia.

"At dawn on Sunday, a light naval unit of the Royal Patagonian Fleet landed on the formerly British Minguiers archipelago," said a statement yesterday from the offices of Mr Raspail, the Paris-based consul general of Orélie-

King of Patagonia.

King Orélie-Antoine, also known as Antoine de Tournes, claims to be a distant relative of a Gallic adventurer who in the late nineteenth century declared a short-lived Kingdom of Patagonia before being arrested by the Chilean army and ending his days in penury in France.

"We first claimed the Minguiers for His Highness back in June 1984," Mr Raspail said. "That was in response to Britain's occupation of the Falkland Islands, which before they were Argentine or British were part of the Kingdom of Patagonia. This action was in reply to the seizure of a French fishing vessel

in Guernsey last week."

The commando raid, staged by volunteer marines, was over within hours. Mr Raspail said, leaving the Patagonian flag flapping bravely and two or three plaques — he was not sure exactly how many — nailed to the rocks reclaiming the half-acre outcrop for the Kingdom.

In Paris, the British ambassador, Sir Michael Jay, was not available for comment, but a spokeswoman at the International Court in the Hague said that as far as she was concerned, the rocks were British. "Territorial claims are always difficult," she said, "particularly when they come from non-existent countries."

It is still dominated by the virtuosic passage work of Incises, with marimbas and vibraphone criss-crossing the pianos in ever-changing patterns.

But there are cases of calm beauty too — ruminations for a battery of steel drums, the harps spinning a shimmering web while one of piano takes off at a wild tangent, or combining with the drums in an unlikely, other-worldly sonority. The rhythmic energy is prodigious.

As always with Boulez the sense is of music forged at white-heat, threatening to burst its formal boundaries and make further conquests, with the act of creation always as an on-going, open-ended process.

Musical triumph that shames festival planners

Review

Andrew Clements

Boulez
Usher Hall, Edinburgh

THERE are just six living composers represented in three weeks of concerts and operas in Edinburgh this year, a miserable showing of which the festival organisers should be thoroughly ashamed.

Their short-sighted timidity is accentuated by the policy that has developed over recent years of ghettoising new music, hermetically sealing nearly all of it into a single weekend.

Regular festivalgoers can be subjected to endless recitals of Wolf, or second-rate Verdi operas just because their libretti are based upon Schiller, but they are not allowed to hear any new works in the context of the standard repertoire, it seems, for fear of their being tainted by the experience.

That the focus of the allotted two days was Pierre Boulez, who as a conductor has done more than anyone else to bring the music of the 20th century into common currency, only underlined the disjunction at the heart of the festival.

Boulez conducted one concert with the Ensemble Inter-Contemporain — a typical programme of Varèse, Stravinsky, Schoenberg and Ligeti, alongside two works of his own — and was present in the audience for his masterpiece from the 1950s, Pli Selon Pli, impressively done by Valérie Anderson and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins, and for the premiere of his latest work, Sur Incises, by the EIC under its principal conductor David Robertson, in a concert that also included Elliott Carter's *Clarinet Concerto* and the British premiere of Philippe Manoury's vivid and arresting *Fragments Pour Un Portrait*.

For many years Pli Selon Pli was one of Boulez's infamous "works in progress", a score that he was unwilling to sign off until he had worked out all the implications of its many-layered portrait of Mallarmé and his poetry, and Sur Incises is currently in that state too, a conception that has grown by accretion over the last four years but has yet to reach its final form. The kernel was a piano piece, Incises, that he wrote for a competition in 1994, two years later the first, 10-minute version of Sur Incises appeared.

The latest expansion lasts 35 minutes. It takes the two kinds of material from the original — rapid, toccata-like figurations that dance across the keyboard, sombre murmuring in the bass — and realises yet more of their potential.

The flat murky acoustic of the Usher Hall inevitably blunted the edge of the glinting metallic soundworld but the sensuous resonance of the scoring survived.

It is still dominated by the virtuosic passage work of Incises, with marimbas and vibraphone criss-crossing the pianos in ever-changing patterns.

But there are cases of calm beauty too — ruminations for a battery of steel drums, the harps spinning a shimmering web while one of piano takes off at a wild tangent, or combining with the drums in an unlikely, other-worldly sonority. The rhythmic energy is prodigious.

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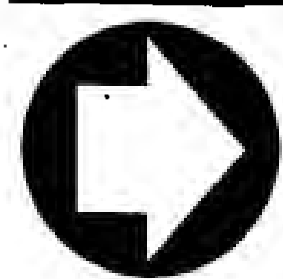
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"I've waited two years for the collapse of capitalism and now it has to happen the week I put my house on the market," a neighbour said to me on Saturday. I know how he feels. Just as things start getting interesting, I'm off.

Linda Grant

Page 7

Prescott's 'lost battle' among significant casualties as ministers attempt to avoid legislative gridlock in next session

Rail retreat alarms Labour MPs

Michael White
Political Editor

LABOUR MPs and transport campaigners yesterday expressed dismay that John Prescott, Prime Minister, had lost his battle for legislative time in which to set up a strategic rail authority — a crucial element in his drive for an integrated transport policy.

Such an omission — reported in yesterday's *Guardian* — would be "a great mistake," said Gwyneth Dunwoody, the Labour MP for Crewe who chairs the

Commons transport select committee.

Officials stressed that Mr Prescott, who is now abroad on holiday, can still make important changes on rail regulation and urban congestion charges without legislation.

He also has £1.7 billion to spend on public transport and traffic management over three years. As for company car parks and local authority charging for cars entering congested city centres, the promised consultation paper will go ahead.

Yesterday, Mrs Dunwoody complained: "No one who cares about the future of this country, both economically and socially, can afford to

ignore the total breakdown in our rail and road system... Only urgent action will ensure support from the electorate at the next election."

"Labour will pay a high price for ignoring the real wishes of the people."

While the Tories were able to chortle at Labour's discomfort, the MPs' fears were echoed by environmental groups like Friends of the Earth — as well as the Road Haulage Association.

Conservative MPs suspect that motorists will be milked in the name of "green taxes", while Labour MPs fear Mr Blair's excessive respect for the prejudices of Middle England's drivers.

Dan Hodges, a spokesman for the RHA said: "We appreciate that the Government is facing hard choices in the area of transport, but sooner or later some of those choices will have to be made."

"If you keep placing things on the back burner, then ultimately they will evaporate and drift away."

"We waited 15 months for the transport white paper, which turned out to be an empty vessel, very thin on detail."

"What we are left with is a lethal cocktail of massively increased taxes on motorists, the highest diesel prices in Europe, reduced investment and greater congestion result-

ing in significant damage to our national competitiveness," said the Tory transport spokesman, Christopher Chope.

Ministers yesterday conceded that what one cabinet member called "a large number of extremely well-judged measures" are also threatened with delay in the 1998/99 session at Westminster.

The promised Freedom of Information Bill is already a casualty of further delay as, probably, is the Food Standards agency.

The main reason is that last year's experience, when Labour only narrowly escaped legislative gridlock in the Commons, has made the

Government more wary. The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and David Blunkett, Education and Employment Secretary, who both had bills in Labour's first session, are now both back pressing for more, including a bill to make voting more flexible.

Ironically, constitutional reform will again take pride of place — as it did last year — despite widespread coolness towards it.

After devolution and the Human Rights Bill comes the "mayor for London" legislation, and the latest bid to abolish the voting power of hereditary peers. However, that is fraught with peril, and the veiled threat to stall this

whole 1998/99 programme in the Lords.

The task of choosing priorities in the cabinet's QPL (Queen's speech Future Legislation) committee falls to the new leader of the Commons, Margaret Beckett. She returns to Whitehall from holiday this week, aware that the Queen's speech will be in late November this year — further shortening the session — because the Lords still have weeks of work to do before completing all the bills MPs have sent their way in recent months.

Emergency bills on Northern Ireland and landmines have worsened their problems.

Pharmacy finds right prescription



Three patrons enjoy the ambience at Pharmacy... owners of the restaurant, one of London's trendiest eateries, will receive shares worth up to £7 million, depending on profits

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN REAFORD

Trendy restaurant goes to market for a fat profit

Roger Cowe

PHARMACY, the trendy Notting Hill restaurant backed by the artist Damien Hirst and public relations guru Matthew Freud, yesterday followed the flood of eateries joining the stock market.

Mr Freud and Mr Hirst, together with property entrepreneur Nick Lesian and Nigel Wray, will swap their ownership of the restaurant for shares in Hartford Group, a quoted company. They will receive shares worth up to £7 million, depending on Pharmacy's profits for the year to next June.

Mr Freud, son of the former politician Sir Clement

and great-grandson of Sir Edmund, will become chief executive of Hartford in what the City describes as a "reverse takeover". Its current chairman, the sport and leisure entrepreneur Michael Edelson, will pay £750,000 to buy out the company's existing leisurewear import business, but will remain a non-executive director of Hartford.

Mr Edelson yesterday praised Mr Freud's "unique talents", which he said would help to develop the business. There are plans to replicate Pharmacy and add other themes as yet unspecified.

"Our aim is to establish Hartford as a leading branded restaurant group," Mr Freud said.



Damien Hirst, a founder, designed Pharmacy's décor

Pharmacy was set up only in January of this year but quickly established itself as one of London's most fashionable restaurants. The décor was designed by Hirst, and included packs of Alka Seltzer and Hedex in the windows, support-ropes and Elastoplast in the toilets.

It attracted controversy when the Royal Pharmaceutical Society com-

plained that customers seeking a chemist could be confused. The owners agreed to change the name to Pharmacy Bar and Restaurant, and to remove the authentic pharmacy green neon cross from outside.

Mr Freud built his career on making headlines for clients ranging from Planet Hollywood to Pepsi Cola. He has since joined the celebrity rush into the restaurant business, initially taking over the long-established Quo Vadis in Soho, in conjunction with Hirst. Quo Vadis is likely to be brought under the Hartford umbrella.

The restaurant business has become increasingly attractive to entrepreneurs in recent years, and while previously the establishments would have been private enterprises, several now grace the lists of public companies.

Last week Belgo, the quoted owner of a couple of Belgian-style London restaurants, bought a clutch of prestigious names, including The Ivy, which have been in private hands for more than a century.

Three members of British family die in Florida crash

Helen Carter

THREE members of a British family died after a road accident in Florida as they travelled to an airport to catch a flight home.

Brothers Glen and Gary Bennett, were widowed in the accident, which also killed Gary's 12-year-old son Ryan, at the end of their two week holiday.

The rented Dodge van with nine members of the Bennett family on board and driven by Glen, collided with a pickup truck on Sunday morning.

Gary's wife, Susan, aged 40, from Shirley, West Midlands, and Ryan, were pronounced dead at Osceola regional medical centre in Kissimmee. Mr Bennett, aged 41, suffered slight injuries along with his 14-year-old daughter, Sarah.

The couple's nine-year-old daughter, Leah, was recovering after surgery at the weekend.

Glen's wife, Kay, aged 35, and also from Shirley, died in hospital yesterday after suffering serious head, spinal and internal injuries.

Her 37-year-old husband made the decision to switch

off her life support machine yesterday morning after being told she would never recover.

Their daughters, Eleanor, aged seven, and Lydia, aged four, were released from hospital after treatment.

Their vehicle is reported to have flipped over at least six times after the collision. Pick-up truck driver Richard Demingon, of Lakeland, Florida, was not injured. Florida state troopers say that although the accident was not alcohol-related, charges may be brought against Mr Demingon.

They believe the accident happened as the pickup truck driver attempted to turn his vehicle at a junction.

Lieutenant Chuck Williams, of Florida Highway Patrol, said Mr Demingon had violated highway regulations by turning left when the road was not clear.

The brothers' aunt, Vera Smith, said: "They had spent about 12 months planning the holiday and making sure everything was just as they wanted it."

Last night their father, Charles, was planning to fly to Florida to be with his sons.

Cold war in the Dales as farmer impounds couple's Mercedes

Martha Wainwright

A YORKSHIRE Dales farmer has tweaked the tail of an employee of the world's most powerful security agency, after mounting a home-made blockade of quarry boulders to extract unpaid rent.

George Saville, a cattle and sheep specialist, used the huge stones to outwit his American tenant who works at the Menwith Hill electronic eavesdropping base near Harrogate, after a dispute about farm noise and rent arrears.

"We reckon we're owed £4,000 at least," said Mr Saville, who is 77, clambering on to a three-and-a-half tonne stone block dumped against his farm's garage door.

Trapped inside is a 40-year-old Mercedes sports car, valued at £18,000, and the pride and joy of Patrick and Jane Hillhouse, who took a lease on Cliff House Farm, near Wetherby, when Mr Hillhouse was posted to Menwith Hill two years ago.

Mr Saville, whose family has farmed Cliff House's 100 acres for four generations, was celebrating a court ruling backing his boulders, and or-

dering Mr Hillhouse, whose work at the base was not specified, and his graphic designer wife to pay legal costs of £1,500.

"Whatever they do up there is their business, but my rent should be paid," said Mr Saville. "The Hillhouses complained about everything here, noise and smells and what have you, but this is obviously a working farm. You can tell that as soon as you turn into the gates."

Problems behind the farm's screen of hollyhocks included rumblings from the chicken unit's generator and radio music played to Mr Saville's calves to comfort them during feeding. Diesel fumes, from a tank used to power tractors and other machinery scattered about among squawking chickens and ducks, also disturbed the rural idyll.

Judge McGonigall, sitting in chambers at Leeds county court, heard that the Hillhouses had moved out and that there was every likelihood they would be returning to the United States.

Mr Hillhouse said: "We are getting out while we can. I hope I never see another Yorkshire farmer as long as I live."



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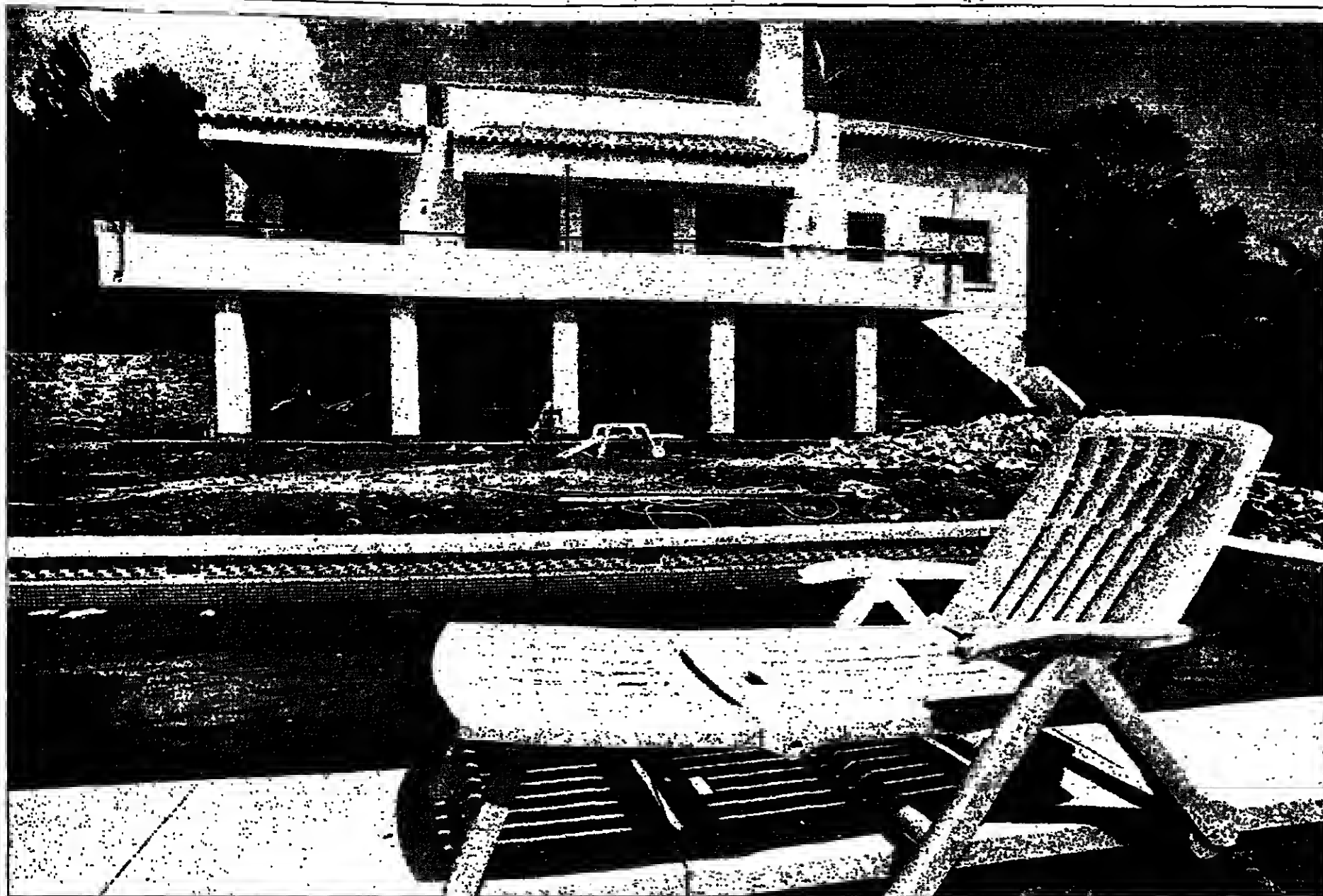
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هكذا من الأصل



One of two swimming pools in Kenneth Noye's Spanish villa, above, and below, the fugitive's living room, complete with telescope

PHOTOGRAPHS: MIKE MOORE

Noye extradition 'within weeks'

Adela Gooch in Madrid and Nick Hopkins

KENNETH Noye could be back in the Britain within weeks once it has formally requested his extradition from Spain, security sources said yesterday.

The fugitive, wanted for the road rage murder of Stephen Cameron, is expected to resist the application, but officials in Spain's Justice Ministry have confirmed that they expect the matter to be resolved quickly.

They believe Noye could be on a plane to Britain within five to six weeks, as long as the Crown Prosecution Service in Britain does not delay its request. Under the terms of the extradition treaty the CPS has 40 days to act, but the papers are expected to be filed by the end of the week.

Officials in Spain said yesterday that relations between the two countries were good and the extradition should be a relatively uncomplicated process.

They made it clear that the



place for Noye to protest his innocence was in Britain.

"There is no reason to keep him in Spain any longer than necessary," said one insider. "He's not wanted here."

Noye, aged 51, who was arrested last Friday night at a restaurant in Barbate on the south-west coast, has made no secret of his reluctance to come back to Britain.

When undercover police officers arrested him, he shouted: "There's no evi-

dence, there's no evidence." It is understood he repeated the claim to a magistrate in Cadiz when he appeared in court on Saturday and was remanded in custody.

Noye is being held in solitary confinement at a top security jail just outside Cadiz. The British consul in Seville, Carlos Formby, will visit him today. He is expected to ask Noye whether he wants any contact with his wife, Brenda, who still lives in Britain.

Since his arrest, details about the operation to track him down and his lifestyle on the run have been revealed.

It appears that Noye, who disappeared after the death of Mr Cameron, aged 21, in May 1996, has been in Spain, despite sightings of him in Russia, Turkey and Greece. There were also rumours that he had been murdered, was living on a beach in Newquay and had dined at his favourite Chinese restaurant in Kent.

Noye is believed to have set up home on the 18-mile long Silver Bay between Cadiz and Gibraltar. He was using a false passport and papers, and was known to locals as Mick, a builder who bought and renovated homes.

Spanish police traced him to a £500,000 villa in Bahía de la Plata, in the hills near Atlántida, after being tipped off by detectives in Britain.

Neighbours said Noye was working hard to extend the villa, which boasts two swimming pools and has a view over the ocean.

Yesterday, security sources said police officers in Spain took photographs of Noye and managed to get his finger-

prints. These proved his identity.

Although detectives have been reluctant to talk about Noye's arrest, it is known that he was grabbed by plain clothes officers as he dined at the El Campero fish restaurant in Barbate.

He was with a woman whose identity has not been disclosed. One report said she was a prostitute, another that she was an undercover officer involved in the "sting".

Noye was seized soon after he and his companion had started their meal. Four armed officers pushed him to the ground and bundled him into a van. The arrest was watched by officers from Kent CID who had flown to Spain in July.

Noye is the chief suspect in

the murder of Mr Cameron, who was stabbed after remonstrating with the driver of a Land Rover Discovery on an A25 slip road at Swanley, Kent and died in the arms of his fiancée, Danielle Cable.

Police in Kent have refused to talk about Noye, but it is known the CPS has been working hard to complete the paperwork for extradition.

The CPS will have to include details of the crime and a full resume of the evidence which has been gathered.

The bundle will be sent to the British Embassy in Madrid, and then passed to the Justice Ministry. An examining magistrate will decide whether to permit the extradition, and the decision will have to be rubber-stamped by the Spanish cabinet.

A burden shared . . .

□ Total taxes paid by the average single person fell from 45.6 to 42.7 per cent of gross earnings between 1978/79 and 1996/97, as income tax rates fell. But a single income couple with two children saw their share rise from 36.2 to 37.8 per cent, mainly due to VAT.

□ The total UK tax burden is below the EU average; 34.1 per cent of GDP compared with 42.5 per cent.

□ The Tories raised employees' National Insurance contributions from 6.5 to 10 per cent, making the effective rate of tax 38p in the £2 for most people, com-

pared with 39.5p in 1979.

□ Corporation tax was cut from 52 to 33 per cent under the Tories, then to 31 per cent by Gordon Brown.

□ Local government taxes are now 8.8 per cent of the total, or only 1.1 per cent less than 20 years ago.

□ The wealthiest 5 per cent pay a larger share of total taxes now. But they have a smaller individual tax burden because they earn so much — 42 per cent of the national cake compared with 35 per cent under Callaghan.

Source: House of Commons research paper 97/50, The Burden of Taxation

Duncan Campbell on the alleged killer of an east London man

Justice plea in Istanbul killing of librarian

HE WAS the Invisible Man. Maltese police knew that he had been eating at the Taj Mahal and the Blue Room, that he had bought himself a gold medal at a shop called Solid Gold and had stayed at the Rokna hotel.

But no one knew his name, his age or what he looked like. And the owner of the credit card he was using to finance this busy Maltese holiday was a young librarian, Edgar Fernandes, aged 37, an outgoing man of Goan extraction of Hackney, east London, who was trying to identify information they might have of a free-spending Egyptian and were pointed in the direction of four men. The men were asked to bring their passports in to police headquarters. "Are you arresting me for being an Egyptian?" asked one of them indignantly. He agreed to bring his passport in to the police the following day.

When he did not appear, Inspector Noel Cutajar and his team went off in search of him in Valetta. When he spotted him on May 12, he used one of the oldest tricks in the book: "I called out his real name. He turned round and we arrested him."

At first Ali, aged 38, and the son of an Egyptian policeman, denied attacking Fernandes.

Then he made a long statement in which he claimed that he was an importer of pipes from Syria and that Fernandes had made an advance to him, which he declined. He claimed Fernandes had insulted his parents and during an argument had thrown a brick at him and he had responded by throwing a brick to defend himself. He had set his hand on his head.

Fernandes's friends say he was not gay and was an easy-going man who would never have insulted the parents of a stranger or attacked him. "He was not an aggressive person at all," his former girlfriend, Evelyn Teichmann, says. They are hoping that this

had no photos, no description, we were trying to trace an invisible man."

On May 7, Fernandes's body was identified by his family and a work colleague in the mortuary in Istanbul.

The body had been found a month earlier in the Bosphorus not far from the hotel but no one had connected the discovery with the reports of the missing man. He had been killed with a blow to the head. Interpol now had information that his passport had been used in Bulgaria and Greece.

The Maltese police asked their Arab informers for any information they might have of a free-spending Egyptian and were pointed in the direction of four men. The men were asked to bring their passports in to police headquarters. "Are you arresting me for being an Egyptian?" asked one of them indignantly. He agreed to bring his passport in to the police the following day.

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Invisible man? ... Mohamed Abdel Monem Abbas Ali is facing a demand for his extradition

week's visit to Turkey by Mathias Fernandes and Mr Vaz will ensure that Ali is extradited to stand trial. They also hope that the case will highlight the importance of the British authorities acting

swiftly when British citizens have disappeared or been killed abroad as they feel that only through the efforts of family, friends and the Maltese police was the arrest finally made.



Policemen escort Noye to a courthouse in Cadiz, where he was remanded in custody

PHOTOGRAPH: M. MARTIN

Oftel error holds up 'shame' plan

Chris Barrie

THE watchdog Oftel has backed down over plans to name telephone companies that deliver a poor service after officials uncovered an error in their calculations.

Although ahead with its "name and shame" campaign late this year, publication of the names of the worst offenders has been delayed while officials verify the data.

Oftel had promised a comprehensive analysis of customer dissatisfaction. There was to be a list of complaints, was to be a list of complaints, along with the main complaints related to the complaints. Oftel was also to publish a list

Wrong numbers

Oftel will publish today a list of the top 10 complaints made by consumers. The list, covering May to July, is:

- Unsolicited faxes: 1,436
- Dissatisfied with contract terms: 544
- Inadequate response: 537
- Difficulty contacting customer services: 312

- General itemised billing dispute: 306
- Letters not answered by company: 287
- Compensation disputes: 280
- Late provision of telephone service: 258
- Disconnections: 245
- Failure to repair telephone service: 231

of the firms with the most complaints in relation to their customer base.

David Edmonds, the director general of telecommunications, said he had withheld the names after misgivings

arose within his department about the project's methodology and statistical base.

Not only had there been an error in the calculation of the figures, but there was also concern about the way companies

had been selected for inclusion according to the size of their subscriber base. He said: "We must be fair to the companies as well as the consumer."

Apart from consulting consumer groups, Oftel officials are also talking to the companies in an attempt to ensure that they understand fully the methods that Oftel is now going to use in compiling the name and shame list.

The clash is part of the latest of a series that is testing the watchdog's relationship with the mobile companies.

Mr Edmonds's predecessor, Don Cruickshank, ordered the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate charges for connecting calls to mobile phones.

Clinton in Moscow

Presidents join in dance of damned

Martin Kettle in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton left Washington for Moscow yesterday pledging anew to see that the West helps President Yeltsin to stabilise Russia's collapsing economy. But the visit began amid co-existent to negligible domestic expectations that the summit would lift the clouds over the two presidents' futures.

Speaking in Virginia, Mr Clinton said that as long as Russia and its leaders "stay on the path of reform" the United States and Europe would mount another financial rescue package in spite of Russia's continuing downward economic spiral.

Warning of the international dangers from "a weakened Russia", Mr Clinton said strong Western economies had an obligation to help the Russian people. "It's in our interests," he added.

"What I want to do is go there and tell them that the easy thing to do is not the right thing to do," Mr Clinton said. "The easy thing to do is

to go back to how they did it before, and that's not possible."

Few Washington observers expect President Clinton's visit to produce any bankable agreements in view of Russia's continuing economic and political turmoil, and Mr Clinton left home to a chorus of unflattering newspaper and magazine articles depicting his meeting with Mr Yeltsin as an encounter between the enfeebled.

White House advisers remain very nervous about the Moscow visit. They fear that Mr Clinton will again have to face questions from the media this week about his sex life, rather than finding his leadership qualities brought to the fore by the trip.

"These two guys are going to be like two corpses getting together, and I don't see how either of them can do anything for the other," commented a Harvard University expert on Russia, Priscilla McMillan.

"Nothing that these two presidents can talk about means anything to the Rus-

sian people," an unnamed former Clinton adviser told yesterday's Washington Post.

The White House argued that the sex-and-les accusations facing Mr Clinton do not compare with the structural crisis bearing down on Mr Yeltsin. But Mr Clinton faces an exceptionally difficult time in Moscow, since influential American opinion, not least in the financial and stock markets, has markedly swung against Mr Yeltsin in recent weeks.

In Washington, Mr Clinton's critics claim that the US has invested too much in what the Republican chairman of the House of Representatives International Relations Committee, Benjamin Gilman, yesterday called Mr Yeltsin's "often unpredictable and apparently irrational style of governance".

The administration's failure "to cultivate relationships with a variety of other political leaders in Russia will cost the United States dearly in the coming weeks," another Republican congressman, Curt Weldon, said yesterday.

Deaf ears await lesson from Uncle Sam

Tom Whitehouse reports from a Moscow school where pupils are prepared to learn the hard way

ALEXEI tried hard but his creative juices just would not flow.

"I was asked to write a poem about President Clinton, but he doesn't inspire me. I didn't feel the muse," said the 16-year-old, an aspiring poet and songwriter at school 1,240 in Moscow, where Mr Clinton is scheduled to meet young Russia today before his summit with old Russia in the shape of Mr Yeltsin. "Clinton is too arrogant and should listen more to other leaders."

As workers hastily resurfaced the school playground and picked up empty Coke cans and Snickers wrappers — the ubiquitous testament to Russian youth's love affair with America — Alexei and his friends were pensive.

They are divided by the extent of US responsibility for Russia's devastated economy. "All this century, Western experiments have been conducted on Russia from above. First communism and now democracy. But Russia has to find its own way. We mustn't copy America," Alexei said, his shoulders hunched in a

camouflage jacket handed down from his father, who works at the interior ministry.

"But I like the US for its freedom," said Vassili, posing confidently in his leather jacket.

"Take Monica Lewinsky for example. In Russia, you couldn't do what she did — to publicly provoke the president like that. You can do many things in America that you can't do in other countries."

Mr Clinton will need an interpreter to understand Vassili.

1,240 is a state school that specialises in English language teaching and admits only exceptionally intelligent pupils. Most of the children come from well-to-do families.

Their argument about President Clinton echoes a wider debate among Moscow's elite about how Russia should overcome the failure of its American-inspired "reform" programme.

Steel is sold profitably abroad, but the industries that used it at home have collapsed. The reintroduction of protectionism and state support for manufac-

turing now top parliament's demands. Mr Clinton is expected to urge Mr Yeltsin and the acting prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, to reject such calls.

Alexei and Vassili's maths teacher, Irina Vlasova, suspects his motives. "America does not want a strong Russia because if we were strong — with a strong parliament, a strong economy and strong leaders — we would be powerful again," Ms Vlasova said.

Fee-paying schools for Russia's new rich have thrived in the past five years. But most of Moscow's intelligentsia have stuck with the state sector, where the rigorous schooling standards of the Soviet era are still observed.

To maintain these standards without government funding, parents do a lot more than sell raffle tickets and organise coffee mornings. Schools are undergoing a kind of involuntary privatisation as mums come in to clean and dads do what they can to repair or replace faulty equipment. Unless a school is very lucky and is supported by rich parents, new books — let alone videos and computers — are an unaffordable luxury.

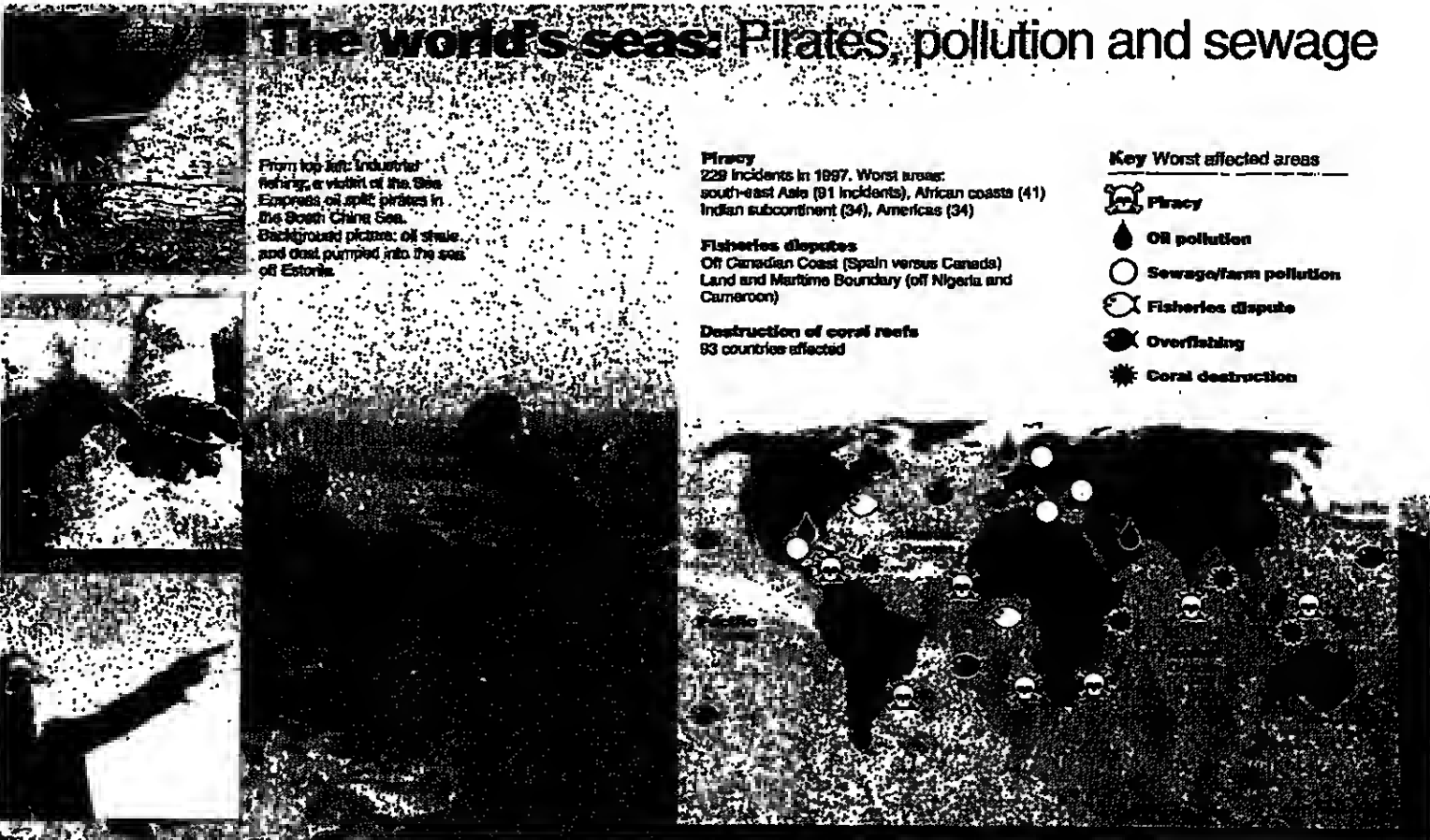
"The only teaching aid I have is this piece of chalk," Ms Vlasova said.



Outside a St Petersburg butcher's, a woman looks at sausages as prices soar on the back of the collapse of Russia's rouble

PHOTOGRAPH: ALEXANDER DEMANCHUK

The oceans nurture life on this planet, providing water, food and energy. So why isn't anyone looking after them?



Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

A NEW organisation to act as a policeman for the world's oceans, to defuse disputes and shame countries that pollute the sea and over-exploit its resources is proposed today by the Independent World Commission on the Oceans.

The commission says existing laws of the sea and international treaties are not enough to prevent the "crisis" that is overtaking the oceans. The 43-member commission, headed by Mario Soares of Portugal, publishes its report today, the last day of Expo '98 in Lisbon. Its main recommendation is the establishment of a world ocean affairs observatory. This would act as a watchdog to monitor ocean governance and point out shortcomings and threats to countries and the seas.

There would also be an independent "guardian of the oceans" with a mandate to take up grievances. The guardian would be a single person to whom individuals, organisations or countries could appeal.

The commission, which has been working for four years on

its 285-page report, says a new world order is needed to police the oceans. Without it, humanity could face disaster.

"Life on our planet is dependent on the oceans," the report says. "They provide food, energy and water and they sustain the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people."

"They are the main highway for international trade, as well as the main stabiliser of the world's climate."

"However, in the space of only a few decades the oceans have become the setting of an expanding list of problems. Territorial disputes (that) threaten peace and security, global climate change, overfishing, indiscriminate trawling, habitat destruction, species extinction, pollution, illegal trafficking, congested shipping lanes, clandestine movement of persons, piracy, terrorism, and the disruption of coastal communities are among the problems that today form part of the unfolding drama of the oceans."

Coastal cities and river discharges kill large areas of ocean by causing algae blooms. Such a "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico extends over up to 3,500 square miles for eight months of the year.

In the Baltic, a four-fold increase in nitrogen and an eight-fold increase in phospho-

rus since 1990 has led to larger sea creatures becoming extinct in an area of 27,000 square miles.

Most life in the northern Black Sea, once the home of 42 species of fish, has been killed by pollution and an introduced jellyfish. The Combe jellyfish arrived in the bilge water of ships from the Great Lakes.

Ten per cent of the world's coral reefs have been degraded beyond recovery, and 30 per cent is being damaged.

The worst areas are in south and south-east Asia, east Africa and the Caribbean.

Of the 100 countries with reefs, significant degradation has occurred in 93. Mining has destroyed many coastal areas, the worst example being Israel which has dug up all its beaches to use as building sand.

Among other serious problems that have not been properly tackled are piracy and terrorism, growing global threats. Last year there were 229 attacks by pirates, more than double the number in 1993. There were 51 reported deaths compared with 26 in 1996. It is believed that many attacks are not reported.

The commission suggests that countries sign regional agreements to use their navies and customs services to fight piracy. This should be a prior-

ity for a UN conference which it wants convened to consider the governance of the oceans.

The report says existing international agreements are not enough, but that without the Law of the Sea convention, which came into force in 1994, the oceans would be in a state of anarchy.

One shortcoming in ocean

law is the lack of enforcement and democratic decisions, and the fact that ordinary people do not have a voice.

The office of the guardian would defuse conflicts and reconcile competing interests. If necessary it would shame countries that were failing to adhere to the agreements they had signed.

Fisheries 'on the brink of collapse'

EXPLOITATION and mass extinctions have pushed the world's fisheries to the brink of collapse, scientists say.

They say they have the know-how to restore fish populations, but that politicians shy from reforming the fishing industry.

Researchers who met at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Boston, Massachusetts, say rules that limit fishing species-by-species create a domino effect when one species is devastated, fishermen move on to the next. The only way to let populations recover is to create refuges where no fishing is allowed.

Andy Solow, the director of the institution's marine policy centre, advocates the promotion of quotas for fishermen. Under such systems, a fisherman can fish up to his quota or sell his fishing rights to the highest bidder.

The system — a "great success" in South Africa — lets smaller fishermen sell their rights to companies that fish more efficiently.

"We've got to choose whether we're going to keep small fishermen in business or whether we're going to find the most efficient way to get a sustainable catch," Mr Solow said. — AP.

Nigel Slater's free recipe card introduces a sumptuous dish of sausages with double cream.

The Observer

Starting this Sunday in the Observer enjoy extra helpings of Nigel Slater with extracts from his new book, 'Real Food', and 6 weeks of free recipe cards.

did work
uses in A

the amazing
soldier
Yangtze

Settings

05/07/1998

Aid work in the world's poorest country loses in America's war on terrorists

Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad meets relief workers who have fled Afghanistan to escape revenge for US air strikes

IN THE coffee shop of Islamabad's sole five-star hotel, a group of aid workers, who fled Afghanistan two weeks ago in fear for their lives, are over the international job ads in the latest Economist.

For the aid workers, whose flight was prompted by threats of retaliation for the US strikes against suspected terrorist bases in Afghanistan, the enforced idleness means days whiled away at swimming pools and golf courses until it is safe to return. Last week, a United Nations employee died in Kabul of bullet injuries after his car came under fire a day after the strikes.

For Afghanistan, reduced by a generation of war to the poorest country on earth, the shock could deliver the final blow to a mission undermined by mutual incomprehension between aid workers and the Taliban.

Some aid agencies began returning last week to the Pakistani city of Peshawar, which they had fled within hours of the US attack. Privately, UN officials do not expect to return to Kabul for up to three months, jeopardising food aid, demining, health, sanitation and other programmes.

The international community last year gave less than \$150 million to Afghanistan. There is a reluctance to prop up a regime that — apart from human rights abuses — is the world's biggest producer of heroin, and is pursuing a war against its opponents.

"Our big fear is that the donors will now say, 'Yes, this is a country of terrorists', and withdraw funding," said a British aid worker.

In the two years since the Taliban captured Kabul, aid agencies have often been caught up in the struggle by the conquering puritans to impose their unbending, strict, Pushtun version of Islam on a sophisticated and Sovietised capital.

"The question is: what role are the aid agencies perceived to have by the Taliban? In other words, do they want us, or don't they?" said Charles MacFarland, the director of the Agency for Co-ordinating Body for Afghan Relief, representing more than 70 agencies.

The answer is unclear, despite a Taliban offer to guarantee the security of aid workers, and the speed with which they arrested the sus-

pected killers of the UN employee.

On July 20, the Taliban expelled some 200 international staff of non-governmental organisations in Kabul, who had balked at a demand that all aid agencies move into a derelict building.

In June, the European Union cut funding to Kabul-based programmes in protest at the Taliban's refusal to allow women in a city of 10,000 widows to seek paid employment, and its ban on education for girls.

Last October, the UN and other agencies were forced to retreat from Mazar-i-Sharif, then controlled by the Taliban's opponents, because of lawlessness.

Relations between the aid community and the Taliban have been bedevilled by the Westerners' reluctance to accept the militia's authority. And the Taliban are angered at what they see as a Western obsession with women's rights.

Attempts at reconciliation were under way — until the air strikes, which set back months of negotiations between the Taliban, the UN and other aid agencies. They are likely also to have dented the World Bank, which had undertaken studies on road and irrigation projects.

Funding from the Middle East is unlikely to fill the funding gap. Middle Eastern governments drastically cut back aid to Afghanistan after the Russian retreat and the Gulf war.

In Peshawar, budget cuts have forced the Kurwani Red Crescent to shut down all but 70 beds in a 220-bed hospital. Arab doctors have been sent home because their wages were too expensive. "The donors are not as generous as before," said Ahmed Sunesi Ahmed, a Sudanese pharmacist who runs the hospital.

Afghan aid workers in the city complain that Middle Eastern largesse rarely reached ordinary people. "They were donating lots of money just for fighting purposes," said Qamaruddin Jaber Khel, the director of the Afghan Development Agency.

The Taliban do not appear to share the plume of their potential benefactors. They argue that Afghanistan's wretchedness is God's will. "If God is happy for us to live amid this destruction, we are always happy," a Taliban leader told reporters recently.



A passenger is dragged from a bus in Kabul and given an 'Islamic haircut' by a member of the Taliban militia, to prevent Satan nesting in his long hair

PHOTOGRAPH: STEFAN SMITH

Execution draws crowds where TV is banned

Hopes of a softening of the Taliban regime and of a place in the international community have been dealt a blow, reports **Richard Galpin in Kabul**

UNTIL A week ago, most ordinary Afghans had never heard the name Osama bin Laden. Now, in the wake of the American cruise missile attack, the Saudi dissident — regarded by Washington as enemy number one — is rapidly gaining hero status.

The Taliban movement, which runs Afghanistan as a seat at the United Nations, opening the floodgates to massive loans from the IMF and World Bank to rebuild the country.

But Afghanistan is set to remain a pariah state for as long as Mr Bin Laden is allowed to be "a guest" on its soil.

to have veered off the narrow path of Islamic dogma. After long speeches by the mullahs, the "criminals" are paraded before the crowd, which normally numbers at least 3,000.

This is one of the few permissible forms of entertainment in a country where television, videos, cinema, theatre, music, dancing and alcohol have been banned.

Light refreshments are provided by children selling cola, popcorn and bread. The atmosphere becomes more excited as the authorities prepare to administer the punishment to the first victim — a man caught drinking alcohol.

With his hands tied behind his back, he is flung by two men using a leather strap. After receiving 80 lashes, he is huddled into the back of a truck and driven out of the stadium.

But it is the amputation

that brings the crowd to its feet. As the three surgeons — wearing masks to protect their identity — inject the man with anaesthetic, young men and boys run along the stands to get the best view. Prayers are muttered as the hand comes off and there is a cheer from the crowd.

It is the same at executions — a roar echoes around the stadium as the shots from the Kalashnikovs are fired.

But the Taliban crusade goes beyond stamping out crime. They have pledged to create the "purest" Islamic state in the world.

It is women who have borne the brunt of the Taliban's religious zeal. They are banned from working, receiving a proper education or being seen outside the home.

On the streets of Kabul women are transformed

into billowing blue objects, covered from head-to-toe in the regulation burka — a tent-like garment with a small patch of fine mesh for the face so it is possible for them to see where they are going.

And all this in a city where a few years ago women used to attend university dressed in miniskirts and wearing make-up.

Afghanistan has allowed itself to be drawn into what has been described as the war of the 21st century — the struggle between the West and what is believed to be a massive network of terrorist groups led by Mr Bin Laden.

Already, Kabul stands as a grim monument to the destruction wrought by decades of conflict. Whole suburbs lie in ruins. Now it is difficult to hope for anything better.

The amazingly good soldier of Yangtze

John Gittings in Beijing on the rise of a hero from China's floods

CHINA has a new hero cast in the most traditional of moulds — a soldier who died while fighting the floods but who did so for the sake of the Communist Party.

Gao Jiancheng was swept away on August 1 in a disaster on the Yangtze River which has been reported only sketchily. The first day of August happened to be national Army Day.

Named by China's president, Jiang Zemin, as a "hero of flood resistance", Gao has become a posthumous propaganda icon. His unfortunate wife has also been swept up in what amounts to a media flood.

She has been shown studying an over-life-size statue of her late husband, knocked together hastily by some sculptors in Shanghai. "It's just like him," she was quoted as saying. "I feel as if he is still alive."

There is a well established convention for the writing up of heroic deeds which dates back to the 1949 revolution. Though China has changed greatly in recent years, this politico-literary style remains absolutely the same.

For older people it still strikes a chord. The flood crisis may also have legitimate slogans that would normally meet with ridicule. But the heavy-handed campaign appears driven by more overt objectives — to boost the popularity of the army and party, and to rekindle the old collective spirit which has waned.

from the city of Wuhan. China has officially denied reports that several hundred people also died, but his tale confirms that it was a very serious incident.

Gao, the political officer in charge of a company of soldiers, rushed to the breach in a convoy of jeeps. But the vehicles were overwhelmed by the flood and survivors had to cling to tree branches. Gao met his end after giving his lifeline to another soldier who could not swim.

It is harder to believe that on first arriving at the site, while the water was already pouring through the breach in the dike, Gao had time to rally morale with the following words: "Everyone should keep calm... The company commander and I are here. There are party members and cadres here too. Even if we are sacrificed, we shall ensure your safety!"

As is also customary. In these tales, we are allowed to see into the hero's mind. Gao did not spare a thought, we are told, for his 80-year-old mother who herself lives in a flood area in neighbouring Hunan province, he plunged straight in.

Last week's front page story on the episode in the official People's Daily also records significant incidents from Gao's life.

Over the preceding year, we are told, he wrote more than 200,000 words of notes on "spiritual civilisation" and other politically uplifting themes. Earlier, he had used his historical handbook to solve a cookhouse dispute over the amount of chilli sauce in the food.



Soldiers try to repair a breach in a barrier in the south-eastern city of Nanjing. The media are portraying such soldiers as the vanguard of flood defence

PHOTOGRAPH: CHEN YANXU

Yesterday, as the middle Yangtze region faced an eighth surge of flooding that looks set to go on for weeks, army units from other provinces were shown on television at the ready. As before, the detachments of soldiers are portrayed in the vanguard of the fight against the worst inundation in decades — filling sandbags, rescuing

the elderly and singing cheerful songs. The result is that the ordinary people who are on the scene in much greater numbers, whether as victims or flood fighters, appear more distant, except in a few more lively newspapers.

One of these carried at the weekend a photo-feature on the fight against schistosomiasis — a disease transmitted through the river snail which China has long sought to eradicate. The floods have created a new threat to soldiers and civilians alike who are exposed to the disease as they struggle in the water. The doctors are struggling, too, to keep flood clinics and hospitals going. In a quieter sort of heroism,

News in brief

Holocaust victims sue VW

A GROUP of Holocaust survivors yesterday filed a class-action lawsuit in Newark, New Jersey, against Volkswagen. It is claimed that the German car giant used concentration camp victims as "slave labourers", writes Mark Tran in New York.

The action is the latest in a string of lawsuits from Holocaust survivors seeking compensation for their ordeal during the second world war. Swiss banks recently settled claims for \$1.25 billion (£750 million). The Newark suit

follows by one day a similar move in New York against VW, BMW and other German and US companies. It is claimed that the firms exploited slave labour and worked with the Nazis to ensure a supply of workers. VW said in July it would establish a fund to pay back wages, but lawyers for the survivors say the firm's offers are insufficient.

Ely Gross is one of the main plaintiffs in the Newark action, filed by lawyer Mel Weiss. The Romanian native was 15 when she and her fam-

ily were rounded up by Nazis. "I didn't know what I was working for at the time. I found out later it was for Volkswagen," she said. "It was worse than a nightmare."

Ms Gross said she, her mother and five-year-old brother were sent to Auschwitz, in Poland, in April 1944. She was sent to work in the VW plant at Fallersleben, painting car parts 12 hours a day. Ms Gross claims to work and paint fumes left her with a chronic cough which remains with her today.

Runaway balloon may have dropped into Arctic Sea

THE RUNAWAY weather balloon tracked by the air forces of three countries is believed to have come down in the Arctic Sea, the company that launched it said last night.

Aircraft from Canada, Britain and the US had monitored the 300m-tall balloon's progress across the Atlantic, with air traffic controllers diverting planes from its path.

Last Thursday Canadian jet fighters fired more than 1,000 rounds at the balloon, but

failed to bring it down. Yesterday Dale Sommerseldt, vice-president of Scientific Instrumentation Ltd, told BBC Radio 5 Live that the balloon had just been seen west of Spitzbergen, north of the Norwegian mainland.

He said: "It's no longer a threat to Arctic and transatlantic flights, which is a big relief for us today. We believe it's finally down, in the sea, or possibly on pack ice. We don't have any plans to recover it unless it is spotted."

Bomb kills 10 in Algiers market

A bomb that exploded near a market in Algiers yesterday killed at least 10 people and injured 15.

The blast in the Bab-el-Oued district, a stronghold of Muslim fundamentalists, ripped through a packed square. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. — AP.

Panda puzzle

Scientists at San Diego zoo are studying a panda's every yawn, scratch and lick in the fervent hope that artificial insemination has paid off and she is set to give birth. Despite weekly ultrasound tests,

Bai Yun's keepers do not know if she is pregnant — a foetus is the same size as a human fist — so 18 cameras are trained on her to scrutinise her behaviour. — AP.

Train rams bus

A high-speed train rammed a bus at a railroad crossing in Mavil, western India, killing 30 people and injuring five, the Press Trust of India said. There was no signal at the crossing. — AP.

Wedding crash

The parents of a bride and groom were among 11 people killed when a helicopter crashed into a lake in Lithuania. The couple had hired the aircraft as a treat for their wedding guests. — AP.

Kabila claims victory in west

PRESIDENT Laurent Kabila yesterday claimed victory over rebels in the west of the Democratic Republic of Congo and said the focus of the month-old war had shifted east.

Mr Kabila, speaking through an aide, said his forces had encircled the town of Kaleme on Lake Tanganyika — which is close to the rebels' eastern front strong-hold — and were preparing to attack.

The Rwandan-backed rebels retain control of the eastern front, holding cities bordering Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, and Congo's third city, Kisangani.

But rebel leaders concede that they have withdrawn from Matadi, the main port linking Kinshasa with the sea, and from the Inga hydro-electric dam in the west.

"Now we are conducting a guerrilla type of war," the rebels' political figurehead, Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, said, referring to Kinshasa.

Residents said the capital was calm yesterday following five days of skirmishes and bloody pursuit of rebel infiltrators. Mr Kabila has accused Rwanda and Uganda of fomenting the revolt. He is supported by Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia. — Reuters.

Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

NOW that the dust has settled over Helen Wilkinson's ferocious attack on Laddish New Labour's footballing cronyism — unfairly interpreted by some as personally motivated, following her split from Geoff Mulgan of the Downing Street policy unit — the time has come to look back at happier days. It is 1995 and Helen and her beau Geoff have just written their acclaimed *Demos* paper *Freedom's Children: Work, Relationships and Politics for 18-34 Year Olds in Britain Today*. "Greater openness, choice and honesty represents great progress," it tells us. "In our qualitative research we found that young people value the greater equality, mutual respect and intimacy that recent years have brought, and in our focus groups we found strong optimistic consensus that the world of relationships and families had improved greatly." Oh, those halcyon days — a world apart from the cynicism of today. "Things," the focus groups would chant, "can only get better..."

THE Dairy's People-Friendly Guide to New Labour Lexicon, you will recall, was perturbed by an anagrammatical contribution last week. Word wizardry, we thought we had made clear, was not appropriate to the Guide. However, we have been thrown into crisis over the weekend by more of the same. John Simpson of Bristol writes to tell us that Mr Blair's party of "One Nation Radicals" can also be rearranged to read: "Satanic and Looming". But the man we suspect to be masterminding these latest attempts to supplant the Guide is Tassos Stevens. "The very name," reads his e-mail, "The Dairy's People-Friendly Guide to New Labour Lexicon" reveals itself as a coded instruction from Millbank: 'You T. Blair lap-dog — upon exile, nicely redefine the words!' A immediate moratorium has been declared on the Guide pending a full and frank review of its helpfulness.

SO moved by the Omagh bombing was Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Andrew Blackay, that he was unable to visit the town until last Friday — two weeks after the tragedy — when he met senior RUC officers and local residents to offer his condolences. It was "a time of intense sensitivity," he said in explanation. "I think the last thing people want in Northern Ireland when there has been a bombing is to be gawped at. I didn't want to go until the funerals were over." As a mark of respect Andrew had been waiting at a discreet distance — with dignity, and with frequent telephone briefings from Central Office — on the Greek island of Syros. A similar discreet distance was observed, you may remember, at the time of the Good Friday peace agreement's signing, when Andrew chose the holiday destination of Namibia.

IT is always sad when close friends part ways but the BBC's *Living With the Enemy*, to be screened this autumn, promises to be a real heart-breaker. Poignantly it captures a carefree Derek Draper briefing journalists about his dear pal and former boss, Peter, prior to the Dollygate scandal. Happily he lists Mandelstam's "real friends" to camera — not knowing he would soon find his own name so cruelly crossed off the list. Perhaps a little over-enthusiastic, he goes on to reveal that Peter is only interested in clever, witty and original people, so "can't deal with Labour backbenchers."

NEWs of a crime of passion reaches the Diary. A 41-year-old woman has been charged, reports FHM magazine, with cutting off part of another woman's nose in a Milwaukee supermarket. While such trolley rage can never be condoned, the attack, we should point out, was motivated by perhaps the most atrocious breach of shopping etiquette imaginable. The victim was in a queue marked "ten items or fewer" with too many goods.



Even Democrats won't put their shirts on Clinton — and neither will I

Hugo Young



THE MAN who goes to Moscow today could never bring dollars but might have supplied the miserable masses with the glimpse of a credible politician. Too many billions of dollars and Deutschmarks are lost down the Russian drain for any early success. But as living proof that democracy works, the glow of his triumphant benignity should radiate from the American president to the victims of the first post-communist decade. Instead, Bill Clinton brings the stench of personal corruption and the terminal weakness of a broken leader.

The British, especially the liberal British, never anticipated this. They have tended to believe that whatever Clinton got up to in Arkansas was long ago, and whatever he did with his private parts in the White House did not, and maybe should not, compromise his public job. Until recently, I was among the British. Sleazy though Clinton was, he had other qualities. He had been elected twice, the beneficiary of Americans' sense of proportion. He was being pursued by a prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, who was abusing his power. Behind Starr stood a hydra-headed mob that has no parallel in European politics.

Clinton, in short, might be damaged, but did not deserve to fail. Though hideously distracted, he still had a job to do. The state of the republic could sustain no other outcome, as its tribunes in Congress would recognise by finding many self-interested reasons not to act on whatever report Starr sent them the trigger for possible impeachment. Republicans and Democrats alike needed to keep the man in place. Besides, wasn't it all about sex? And sex, even in a

land of puritans, couldn't be allowed to destroy the president.

After a month in the US, I think this easy analysis no longer holds. The confession has changed everything. Behind the urgings of the great and good that Clinton should admit his affair with Monica Lewinsky lay the assumption that modern America, a society where confessionalsism is in even stronger vogue than puritanism, would warm to his gesture and forgive him. 'Fess up and let's all move on: the spirit. But it hasn't happened. Offered only because he had no alternative, Clinton's confession made his situation worse, a development about which Europeans, as they watch him parade this week through Moscow and Ulster, need to remove their illusions.

Three truths are beginning to emerge from the miasma of lying. The first is that the confession exposes an irretrievably damaged person, and would have done so whatever the terms in which it had been made. The columns and talk shows spill over with complaints about his lack of adequate apology behind the expression of regret, about Clinton's unwise aggression against Starr, and suchlike minutiae. The fact is that even the most tearful demeanour couldn't have pre-empted the questions about how many other times he has lied, and how many of his staff he led into lying for him. This serial betrayal of loyal colleagues hoists the Lewinsky affair far above a private matter. They will never be disposed to trust him again, and therefore never fight as hard as necessary for what remains of his agenda, the only reason why many people once took him seriously.

Secondly, it is, for once, the political class and not the focus-grouped, opinion-poll-masses who are going to matter. For years, Clinton's people found solace for every setback in the popularity he enjoys on the back of a booming economy. They're still talking up the post-Lewinsky polls, which say that a majority of people want him to carry on. But these polls may prove to have as little a relationship to reality, offering as helpful guidance to policymakers, as the polls which said the British public wanted to know every detail about Diana while at the same time being disgusted by every invasion of her privacy.

PUBLIC opinion is about to be put to the test in the Congressional elections. No Democrat I know is putting a shirt on Clinton's brilliant popularity carrying them to victory. Polls are mysterious and contradictory, elections are a fact. Facing the end of the term, or the near-certain failure to secure the House majority they once expected, Democrats are privately more scathing than Republicans. Those who do get back will be handling a report from Starr that records a series of sexual activities which are likely to destroy the credence of every other denial Clinton has made in his long evasive history, and surround him with a aura of tawdriness that transcends any refined discussion about whether a president should be allowed to commit adultery. And that's without going into the perjury which, as his own testimony shows, he clearly committed.

Clinton needs his own party, if he's to survive the Congressional response to Starr. Having lost another round of Con-

gressional elections, Democrats will look to the 2000 election, and how had their party might then appear if Clinton is still leading it. In this new context, it is not inconceivable that the wounded Democrats will be pushing the momentum towards what the Republican leadership wants to avoid at all costs: pressure so intense that Clinton can no longer survive it.

Whether or not that happens nobody can predict. But it has become a real possibility. However arguable the proprieties — the pernicious games Starr played, the treacherous moves of vengeful women, the twisted exaltation of the armies of the right who failed to nail him or his wife on Whitewater land deals — the implosion of power is what Clinton faces. If he survives in office, it will be as a nullity, unable to lever a single piece of pressure against legislators who despise him, void of the presidential authority which is the essence of the unwritten American constitution.

This has come about for no other reason than his own recklessness. He risked his presidency for brazen cheap thrills, and tried to mobilise the system to cover it up. That's what the confession did not say, but inextinguishably meant. It will be the defining case the history books bring forward to contest the claim that private morality never really matters. America faces a paralysing domestic calamity, but the world suffers as much. The Middle East, global terrorism, the Balkans, Asian meltdown: the US has to be the settler of first and last resort. But its president is finished. The attitude in Moscow is self-devised: the smiles of Ulster, grinning prime minister in attendance, will be for a halo that's a sham.

Flicking the switch

Ros Coward



THIS has been a classic global warming summer — deadly heat in the Mediterranean and cold grey skies in northern Europe. But will the realisation that global warming is an unpleasant prospect rather than a chance to grow exotic fruit in the backyard lead to changes in individual behaviour?

Most people still regard climate change as something far too complex and global to be affected by individual actions, certainly not by green consumerism. Such defeatism is likely to grow in the face of the Government's vacillations on the environment. One moment we feel everything is safe in its hands: the manifesto commitment on the reduction of so-called greenhouse gases was even greater than its European counterparts. The next moment, its backsliding for fear of appearing anti-car or anti-growth is likely to induce despair. If the Government can't make a difference, how can we?

This would be unfortunate. The area where most remains to be done is in that temple of individual consumption, the household, and imminent changes in the supply of domestic energy are about to open up new possibilities for consumer action. From mid-September we will be able to opt for "green energy" when the British energy market becomes the first in the world to be opened up to competition. Individual households are responsible for one fifth of the carbon dioxide emissions in Europe. It's the one sector where there have been no reductions in energy consumption in recent years. In Britain virtually all this energy comes from fossil fuel, which creates 200 times the level of carbon dioxide than energy sources like wind power or hydroelectricity. A shift to renewable sources in such a context could make a huge reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases.

IN THEORY, this liberalisation of the energy market offers real hope of making a difference. Consumers can elect to get their electricity from a company which uses renewable sources or, in the shorter term, expresses a commitment to research and investment in renewable sources. And several, recognising a potential market niche outside their immediate geographical area, are doing just that. Which is why after years mainly focused on the government and industry, environmental groups are again making a push for the green consumer. World Wide Fund for Nature has just published *Making A Difference*, explain-

ing how preserving biodiversity and protecting species is dependent on individuals changing their patterns of energy consumption.

Of course these hopes for a shift to green energy are highly idealistic. There are endless obstacles. Currently most energy companies are seeking to win custom with promises of lower prices or air miles rather than sustainability. Even the Consumers' Association seems to be looking at the question exclusively in these terms. Increasing competition between companies will drive down prices and may make it difficult for the currently more expensive renewable sources to compete.

At present, it looks as if "green consumers" will be asked to pay slightly more. And to persuade large enough numbers to do so, may require an ideological shift. In Britain, wind farms — the best known source of renewable energy — have examples as well as friends: when a large company plunks an ugly wind farm in your next door field, it's not much different from a fossil fuel station. It will also be hard for consumers to know whether what they are getting is really green since companies have to have to reveal information about their sources. To get the facts they will have to consult audits prepared by groups like Friends of the Earth and WWF.

If, in the end, not enough committed consumers can be found, environmentalists pursuing this route. There's the race for ever cheaper power might turn out to have been a damaging diversion. Perhaps they should have focused on making the Government prepare a co-ordinated strategy to use existing energy more efficiently: a focus on cheaper lighting and heating rather than churning electricity which renewable sources might never provide.

But having spent the sum-

From this month, we can opt for 'green energy'. It costs slightly more

mer in Denmark I can see there are real advantages in pursuing this route. There wind farms are a familiar part of the landscape. They supply 40 per cent of energy needs and are often small and community owned. Not only are they unobtrusive, they are often beautiful, a far cry from the casual tipping up of the countryside associated with the energy industry in Britain. And this commitment to renewable energy is not just because, for a long while, they had no alternative. It's part of an on-going commitment to the environment. They are now pioneering offshore wind farms, which have great relevance here, and have set even higher targets for renewable energy in 2000. Perhaps a small population makes this possible but Denmark can still teach the rest of the world a lesson. By putting the environment first, the gains in quality of life far outweigh any individual losses.

G7 leaders are finally taking the Russian crisis seriously. But they may be too late to prevent a bumpy landing for all of us

That falling feeling

Alex Brummer

THE inaction of the West as Russia's economic and political system has staggered through crisis since the devaluation of the rouble two weeks ago, may prove to be the costliest error of the post-second world war era.

The drift in Russia has delivered a dangerous message of indifference and vacillation to other emerging market economies from East Asia to Latin America, raising the spectre of a worldwide recession. Moreover, the uncertainty enveloping global markets is leading to extremely tight credit conditions in Western money markets which will make it far more difficult for corporations to borrow to invest and expand. It is only in the last 48 hours, as the global crisis threatens to engulf them on

their return from vacation, that the leaders of the Group of Seven most powerful industrial countries — the US, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Japan and Canada — have demonstrated any determination to become involved in the unfolding drama. Tony Blair, currently chairman of the G7, has taken a flurry of calls from his fellow heads of government, indicating a growing level of anxiety which will not be eased by the political standoff in Moscow, where Viktor Chernomyrdin has failed to be confirmed as prime minister, nor the latest roller-coaster on the Dow Jones in New York.

One of the tricks of international financial diplomacy is to catch the markets by surprise, as was the case when the US intervened in the foreign exchange to steady the Japanese yen in mid-June of

this year. What is worrying about this current very public posturing is that it is just that. The best rule of international finance is that unilateral and decisive action to deal with emergencies, like that taken by President Clinton in December 1994 to rescue the yen, tend to be more

A series of calls on the IMF's resources has dramatically emptied the coffers

effective than the collaborative steps proposed by the G7. This is partly because Germany and the Bundesbank, which lives by financial orthodoxy, are much less willing than the US to spend money now and ask questions later.

As an organisation the G7 has very little firepower of its own. It can intervene in foreign exchange markets using the reserves of individual central banks, but such operations are essentially short-term. If it is to have any long-term effect, its main instrument is the International Monetary Fund where historically the US, as the biggest shareholder, is highly influential. However at present the US's position as the moral leader of the IMF is somewhat in jeopardy. A series of calls on the IMF's resources ranging from Russia (before the current crisis) to East Asia has dramatically emptied the fund's coffers. Efforts to increase resources by some 50 per cent have been stifled by the US Congress which means that the fund effectively finds itself critically short of cash. Even if the G7 were to decide that a



massive Russia bailout fund — larger than the \$23 billion arranged before the rouble devaluation and debt moratorium — it might not be the right solution to Moscow's problems.

Nevertheless there are mechanisms beyond the IMF, including an emergency fund of the \$50 billion General Arrangements to Borrow last used to provide assistance to Jim Callaghan and Denis Healey, when the pound fell through the floor in 1976, spelling the death knell of the Labour government.

But to reach the point of activating such facilities would almost certainly mean convening an emergency session of G7 finance ministers who would demand that Russia does take the action to mend itself, most notably by ending the leakages of foreign currency to Zurich and other offshore centres (capital

outflow had been running at \$3.75 billion a month before the crisis) and similar steps to prevent the leakages of tax income at home.

That demands strong governance in Moscow, a situation which currently looks unlikely. Given this difficulty, can Western governments help themselves to prevent Moscow's problems becoming those of the City and Wall Street? The bubble of confidence has almost certainly been pricked from Caracas to Frankfurt and New York, where the Russian problem has delivered a sharp psychological blow of the kind which turns the economic cycle.

A concerted cut in Western interest rates, led by the Federal Reserve (the US central bank) could ease the tensions in international markets, but the odds on a hard landing are increasing.

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to the Editor
Public

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SEP 01 1998

Gerald Collier

Education with social purpose

GERALD Collier, who has died aged 88, made a substantial contribution to the education of teachers over half a century. As principal of Bede College (now part of the University of Durham) for 16 years and through his books, articles, thoughtful inquiries into classroom practice, lecture tours and his service on committees, he exercised an influence which, though always quiet, was penetrating. Sanity was one of his strong points: his judgments, within the range of his interests, were much trusted.

He was educated at Aldenham School and St John's College, Cambridge, from which he graduated in Science and went on to gain a Diploma in Education at Oxford. He then worked for a year in Sweden as a technical translator. The 13 years he spent as a schoolmaster in both the independent and state sectors were interrupted by his lengthy service as an industrial chemist. No wonder that people were to find it difficult to charge him either with lack of practical knowledge of the classroom or of the "real world". Both of these informed his blossoming interest in values, morals and the ways in which their development could be encouraged in the young.

He found his vocation in the education of teachers, a vocation he pursued at St Luke's in Exeter and Bede, both Church of England colleges, but enlarged by visits to other countries, including spending periods in the United States as a Fulbright Scholar and later as a professor at Temple University. For some years he was editor of *Education for Teaching*, and later an effective chairman of the Association of Teachers in Colleges and Departments.

Collier was among the earliest advocates of film and other audio-visual aids in classrooms. His views on the potential uses of technology were much valued.

of Education (ATCDE). He was among the earliest advocates of the use of film and other audio-visual aids in classrooms and as consultant to the Council for Education Technology his views on the potential uses of technology were much valued. Most of Collier's key contributions to the study of education arose from his clear understanding how the work of teachers, schools and places of higher education affects and is influenced by the societies they serve. One of

his earliest books, *The Social Purposes of Education* (1969), was a pioneering work in the sociology of education. His sensitive use of literature and film to throw light on moral, spiritual and political issues predated and helped shape some of the forms that cultural and media studies have since taken. His interest in the dynamics of social life embraced both small and large groups and guided the way in which he sought to educate teachers through par-

mension to teacher education. With his wife Gwen he provided much appreciated hospitality in his home on campus. Staff with different subject and professional interests were frequently brought together to meet distinguished visiting speakers. In retirement Collier remained in contact with many former students, colleagues and other scholars. His honorary research fellowship at the University of East Anglia from 1978 to 1981 stimulated his own academic productivity and kept him up-to-date with new thought and practice in the fields of both education and ethics.

Gerald Collier was a profoundly serious man, who devoted little time to the more frivolous pursuits of an affluent society, but he lacked neither humour nor aesthetic sensibility. He delighted in conversation on matters of substance. His kindness and concern for the welfare and careers of colleagues and students will be long remembered, as will the contributions he made to ensuring that teachers are not only professionally but also morally and spiritually equipped.

Roy Niblett

Kenneth Gerald Collier, educationist, born 1910; died August 10, 1998



Gerald Collier... he understood how places of education affect and are influenced by the societies they serve

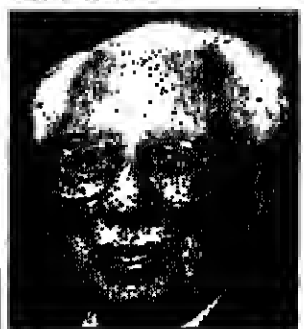
Dr John Wilkinson

Scouting in the blood

JOHNSON, who has died at the age of 101, was the first lad to try out the rides at Blackpool pleasure beach at the turn of the century, treated as a hero. He was in a ballot to win a Victoria Cross in the first world war and as a Scout introduced the toggle to Albania. He was also an eminent physician, haematologist, and chemist.

Wilkinson took a first in chemistry from Manchester University in 1921, and between then and 1928 pursued

chemical research there, taking a masters and becoming a fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. He won a string of prizes and scholarships. He specialised in blood diseases and was a key authority in the field. He started on seven decades of writing on medical and scientific subjects in 1920. Eleven years later he was awarded his MD by Manchester. He went on to become director of Manchester University and the Royal Infirmary's haematology department, a sometime presi-



Wilkinson: he introduced the toggle to Albania

dent of the European Haematology Society and a co-founder of the British Haematology Society. Still a consultant in the 1970s, he was still working as a GP in the 1980s.

Wilkinson was born in Oldham, and at the age of two, after his mother's death, was sent with his brother to

Blackpool to live with their aunt. One day, while out with school friends, he came across Baden-Powell's new book, *Scouting for Boys*. Fired with enthusiasm, the boys set up "Lion Patrol" at their school, which later became the 1st Blackpool Scout Troop. In his teens he became one of the first King's Scouts.

He had first arrived at Manchester University before the first world war, but in 1916 joined the Royal Naval Air Service as an expert in chemical warfare. In 1918 he took part in the famous raid on the U-boat base at Zeebrugge, masterminded by Sir Roger Keyes. Wilkinson was on the old cruiser HMS Vindictive which was deliberately sunk in an attempt to blockade the port. One Victoria Cross was awarded among his group and a ballot was held for it which Wilkinson, for once, did not win.

Back at Manchester University, he had joined the 1st Davenport (Stockport) Troop, eventually becoming an assistant commissioner. Carefully fled at his Cheshire home, Moberley Old Hall, are souvenirs of his illustrious scouting career. He was the world's oldest active "Boy" Scout.

In addition to his lifelong interest in scouting, Wilkinson was a world authority on Delfware apothecary jars of which he had a fine collection. In 1964 he surprised his many friends by marrying Marion Crofield, a major in the Women's Army Corps. They later separated.

His prescription for a long life was simple, "stay active, don't vegetate."

Kenneth Shenton
John Frederick Wilkinson, doctor, born June 10, 1897; died August 13, 1998

Carl Barriteau

Conductor with a classy clarinet

CARL Barriteau, who has died in Australia aged 94, was a master of the clarinet and saxophone and one of a significant number of Caribbean musicians whose contribution to the vivacity of British popular music cannot be over-emphasised.

Voted Britain's leading clarinetist for 10 consecutive years, he had fallen in love with the instrument in Venezuela, where his father had taken his family from Trinidad, and where the boy heard the principal clarinetist with the Caracas Symphony Orchestra trying out new reeds.

When his parents separated he and his three siblings were placed in a Trinidad orphanage. There, in his military band, Barriteau first played the brass tenor horn but when a small E-flat clarinet, suitable for his eight-year-old fingers, appeared, he commandeered it, eventually playing the "grown-up" E-flat version. He vowed then to become the greatest clarinetist in the world.

He joined the Trinidad Constabulary Band and, self-taught as an arranger, wrote his first march, aged 14. Augmenting his income in dance bands, he accompanied visiting Guyanese dancer Ken "Snakehips" Johnson at Port of Spain's Empire Theatre in 1935. Two years later, Johnson sent for Barriteau to join him in a new band in England.

An all-black British band then was a novelty guaranteeing attention, especially for Barriteau, who, with his formal training and perfect pitch, became its musical director. As featured soloist on the band's recording of *Tuxedo Junction*, he developed a

following among students in search of black jazz authenticity and was invited to play for Cambridge May Balls.

In residence at the Café de Paris, the Johnson band's regular broadcasts ensured fame, but in March 1941 a Nazi bomb demolished its achievements. Johnson and saxophonist Dave Williams were killed and Barriteau's wrist so badly broken he thought he would never play again. However, rehabilitated by physiotherapy, he worked at the upper-crust Hatchetts with violinist Stephane Grapelli and Barbadian trumpeter Dave Wilkins, who had accompanied him to Eoglaod. A compulsive mimic, he adopted a "high society" accent — until discouraged by his first wife, the singer Rita Lynn.

BARRITEAU'S wartime prestige as an instrumentalist was considerable. A Royal Albert Hall concert of Weber's *Clarinet Concerto* with the London Philharmonic was planned for him, though abandoned through austerity measures.

But ambivalence towards Caribbean settlers persisted. While eager to cash in on the "Snakehips" name, bandleaders were dubious about employing coloured sidemen, although Lew Stone, Gerald Ambrose and Joe Loss did use Barriteau before Johnson's agent asked him to re-form the band. When he tried again, Vincentian saxophonist George Roberts, another black sideman, he would be slated for this apparent lack of racial solidarity but, with Latin bands in the ascendant,

many black instrumentalists had scattered.

Maintaining a 12-piece band after the war was a conspicuous achievement and Barriteau, who conducted with his clarinet, secured a two-year residency in Scotland and more than paid his dues on the road. But he had no head for business and in 1952 was declared bankrupt. He wound up the band and went solo, any jazz giving way to cheerful Louis Jordan numbers and a bit of patter.

Musical fashions passed him by, although once the young tyros of bebop had been proud to be at his side — a 1947 photograph shows key figures in the modern music revolution clustered around him, including Ronnie Scott, guitarist Pete Chilver, trumpeter Dennis Rose and pianist Bernie Fenton.

When I met him at an after-hours spot in Manchester in the 1980s, he was still a household name but he and his second wife, singer Mae Cooper, were playing the working-men's clubs circuit while his countrywoman, pianist Winifred Atwell, was doing the northern theatres and buying the drinks. By the 1970s, after a spell in Germany, he and Mae had moved to Australia.

A recent British CD assembled 23 of his recordings, including a masterly version of Artie Shaw's famous *Concerto for Clarinet*; it was an emphatic reminder of what he achieved in difficult years.

Val Wilmer

Carl Aldric Stanley Barriteau, clarinetist, saxophonist, arranger, bandleader, born February 7, 1914; died August 24, 1998



Barriteau with his singers and a section of his 12-piece orchestra in 1943. VAL WILMER COLLECTION

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: The first of the late summer fungi are appearing in the valley woodlands as a prelude to the main "flowering" that will hopefully follow in October and November.

The ones that catch the eye are the large cap variety, which also tend to be rather colourful and perhaps it's this combination of size and colour that leads to them being used as footballs. Sometimes it's possible to follow a trail of snipped off stems and caps along the public footpaths through the woods.

The two most obvious species I have seen recently have been from the same family — the amanita, perfect examples of size and colour. The first was one familiar to all — the bright red-capped, white stemmed *Fly agaric* so often seen in children's books providing a resting place for one of the woodland gnomes. The other was less familiar, being the slightly smaller, Blusher. With this one, the cap, which can often reach up to 6-7 inches across, is usually a dull reddish-brown and, like the *Fly agaric*, always carries on top small white or patches. Its common name comes from its most noticeable characteristic of the flesh and gills being pale red with age or when damaged.

The approach of autumn has certainly been recognised in the house martin colony on the old village hall, where there has been hectic activity in recent days as the second brood of the year quickly approaches that time to leave the nest. Do they know what lies ahead as they take their first flight — autumn migration, the long and dangerous journey across Europe and North Africa to winter south of the Sahara desert?

J M THOMPSON

Birthdays

Komei Abe, composer, 87; Yvonne de Carlo, actress, 76; Sir David Carter, chief medical officer, Scotland, 88; Prof Ronald Cooke, vice-chancellor, York University, 57; Gloria Estefan, singer and songwriter, 41; Gwynfor Evans, president, Plaid Cymru, 86; Margaret Ewing, Scottish Nationalist MP, 53; Barry Gibb, singer, 52; Rudi Giuliani, football manager, 36; Allen Jones, pop artist, 61; Leonard Slatkin, conductor, 44; Lord Thomson of Fleet, newspaper proprietor, 75.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

IN A report headed, Russia in emergency talks with IMF, (Page 2, August 27), we said "Deutschmark trade yesterday suggested the rouble would have fallen to almost 14 against the dollar, a loss of more than 100 per cent in 10 days."

This makes the mistake of thinking that a move from, say, \$1=100 roubles to \$1=200 roubles is a 100 per cent devaluation — when it is in fact a 50 per cent devaluation. (It is a 100 per cent revaluation of the dollar against the rouble, but that it

In Memoriam

HARRACRE, David John, 1st September 1994. Remembered with love today and everyday.

Memorial Services

WADE, A Thanksgiving Service for the life of ROLAND HENRY WADE will be held at the Priory Church of St Mary & St. Columba, Bolton Abbey, Saltaire, North Yorkshire on Thursday, 17th September at 1.30pm.

Birthdays

LOU KENTON, 80. We place your announcement telephone 0171 715 4661 or fax 0171 715 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

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FinanceGuardian

UK seen as on brink of recession • World markets take another tumble

City braced for share turmoil

Alex Brummer
and Jill Treanor

THE stock market is today expected to continue its slide following another round of heavy falls in Asia, Europe and the Americas and new evidence that the UK economy is on the edge of recession.

In trading before the August bank holiday weekend, the FTSE 100 in London closed at 5,249, its lowest level for seven months, on fears that Russia's problems would accelerate any global economic slowdown.

Evidence that the British

economy is weakening came this morning from business information group Dun & Bradstreet, which reported a rise in business failures in the second quarter of the year, when they rose by 9.4 per cent on the first three months. The firm said the rise in UK failures contrasted with the situation in continental Europe, where the trend in business failures has been improving in recent months.

Another signal that the UK's long recovery may be stuttering came from the Bank of Scotland, which reported that the downturn north of the border had spread from manufacturing to

the services sector — a trend which could soon be felt throughout the UK economy. "The Bank of Scotland said: 'The decline in business activity has now spread to the services sector. The main causes of declining activity remain the strength of sterling and higher interest rates.' It also referred to the recent turmoil in the Far East, Russia and Eastern Europe as being factors in declining confidence."

London dealers will return to their desks today aware that Wall Street yesterday fell below the level at which it began the year and that the efforts by the Hong Kong authorities to turn around the

Hang Seng's weakness failed miserably in Monday trading. After opening on a stronger note, Wall Street divided following news that the political stalemate in Russia was deepening. The Hang Seng had staged a rally over the past fortnight, following intervention by the authorities, but it was back into the red yesterday, when it plummeted more than 7 per cent.

The continued weakness in the Hong Kong stocks will impact on funds invested in the region and will continue to put the spotlight on the link between the Hong Kong and US dollars — the cornerstone of its economic policy.

With London closed,

Europe's next biggest stock index, the Dax in Germany, fell by another 2 per cent. The fall in other markets will have put London shares out of alignment.

The UK economy has been slowing this year as a result of six interest rate increases since Labour came to office in May of last year. The economic adviser to Lloyd's TSB Group, Patrick Foley, called yesterday for a radical reshaping of the inflation target to bring the UK more in line with its European counterparts.

He suggested it was time for the Bank of England to switch its targeting to the European "harmonised index of con-

sumer prices" (HICP), which is a more accurate measure than the retail price index. He argued that adoption of the HICP target together with a revised target for monetary growth of 2 per cent would help lower inflationary expectations in the UK, which have proved "stubbornly high and which are an obstacle to sustained low inflation."

Mr Foley suggested that adoption of the 2 per cent HICP target would ensure convergence between the UK and the EMU region and might help to stabilise sterling exchange rates against the 11 European countries which will join the single currency in January.

Edinburgh Notebook

Digital TV groups want Midas touch



Chris Barrie

LOUISE Woodward, Elisabeth Murdoch, "soaps" commissions, who is working with who, and who makes what money. Normal conversation for the television industry gathered in the George but at the Guardian Edinburgh International Television festival, but this year even the spritzers and vodkas seemed to have added zest.

Everything the industry does will be affected by one overarching subject, digital television. Commercial relationships will shift, commissioning editors will change and want to pay less, the quality of documentaries will be more difficult to verify, and Ms Murdoch's reputation as a businesswoman will be either made or broken by it. Even Louise Woodward will be affected: with all that airtime to fill, broadcasters will inevitably return to best story in various genres whether she likes it or not.

Digital television will either reinvent the industry, or put some leading practitioners. It could even do both.

Despite thousands of words, countless research, millions of pounds of investment, hours of technical development and many conversations in the George in recent years, no one knows how quickly the British public will take to multi-channel pay-TV. Unusually for any multi-million industry, this future really is unknowable.

It is causing an intriguing divergence of views. Even as the regulator for instance, becomes concerned about broadcasters bleeding to death on the knifeblade of high costs and low revenues, so some of the City's leading investment houses are warning to digital's prospects.

At Edinburgh, Peter Rogers, the Independent Television Commission's chief executive, delivered a public rebuke to digital's three main financiers: the BBC, the Virgin and the Channel 4. He said that viewers might decide to do nothing if faced with confusing and too aggressive marketing.

WITHOUT an inflow of subscription revenues, the big three — British Sky Broadcasting, Ondigital and Cable & Wireless Communications — may be brought to their knees.

Too dramatic? Probably not. What Mr Rogers and the ITC fear in the future has already happened. The launch of satellite and multi-channel TV cost its two original protagonists, Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting, so much money that they were forced together to form British Sky Broadcasting.

This time round the ITC wants a more competitive market for pay-TV. Having

forced BSkyB and Ondigital apart once already, the ITC will hardly want to see the two forced to merge.

Half a mile away from the ITC's West End offices analysts at BT Alex Brown, the investment bank, are forecasting immense growth for BSkyB. Digital will give the company "go-go" growth from 2000, delivering 40 per cent compound annual earnings growth between 2000 and 2005. "Exceptionally attractive" is the bank's conclusion.

The bank's financial model assumes that Ondigital, owned by Carlton and Granada, cannot compete effectively. The terrestrial broadcaster may well prove much more competitive than the City and some TV industry pundits think, especially in middle England where satellite dishes are so disliked.

But as long as City investors stay enthusiastic, quoted companies such as BSkyB, Granada, and Carlton can continue to plough millions of pounds into the digital campaign. In the months ahead, the City's confidence in the outcome will be crucial in determining which has the greatest staying power.

But the TV industry comprises much more than the biggest broadcasters. The independent sector, valued according to output at £500 million plus by Henderson Crosthwaite, the stock brokers, faces terrific upheaval even by TV's turbulent standards.

DIGITAL TV should offer Britain's creative people tremendous opportunity. More channels means more commissioning. Content, as executives are so fond of saying, will be king.

The reality is less clear-cut. Unfortunately for the Indies, those executives are not prepared to pay real rates for content. Broadcasters are paying less for programmes, a trend likely to intensify as competition mounts and the costs of launching digital filter down through the industry.

Many new channels still to be launched will depend on low cost output. There will be more use of archive material and more library footage.

Although creative, the Indies are weak financially. Henderson Crosthwaite reckons they make £50 million a year in profits — a shortage of funds means they have to trade away valuable rights in return for cash to turn ideas into programmes. Although TV beams news around the world, programmes sell with much more difficulty. The industry runs a trade deficit of £166 million a year, despite Britain having one of the most vibrant TV industries in the world with the added advantage of operating in English.

John Williams, managing director of United TV and Film and one of TV's most senior commissioning executives, says that programme makers must learn from genres traditionally struggling to find large audiences. Drama and documentary makers must learn from producers of childrens and animation programming.

That would help. But what the industry needs most is huge success for digital. No one can know whether this will happen.

Aon to top KKR bid in buy-out war

Jill Treanor

THE Chicago-based insurance company, Aon, is poised to launch a counter-bid for Willis Corroon, the London insurance broker being sold to American corporate buy-out specialists Kohlberg Kravis Roberts.

The bid, expected to exceed the 200p-a-share offer by KKR in July, must be announced by the end of the week. KKR's takeover is scheduled to close on September 7 without intervention by a rival bidder.

But KKR is believed to be confident of clinching the deal. Aon would have to offer a high enough price to buy off the 86 per cent of Willis Corroon shareholders who have already accepted KKR's offer.

An intervention by Aon could also spark a monopolies enquiry because the combined group would control about 40 per cent of the UK retail broking market.

The City has been expecting Aon to launch the counter-attack after rival Marsh & McLennan snapped up British insurer Sedgwick for £1.2 billion last week.

New York-based Marsh & McLennan's deal with Sedgwick cemented its position as the world's biggest insurance broker, giving the combined company revenue of more than \$7.5 billion. Aon, vying with Marsh & McLennan for the top spot, had revenues of \$5.7 billion in 1997.

By acquiring Willis Corroon, the third-largest insurance broker, Aon would

receive an extra \$1 billion of revenues, which would give it the muscle to compete for the top ranking.

Some City sources had also thought it possible that Aon might try to spoil the Marsh & McLennan-Sedgwick tie-up by trumping the 225p-a-share offer.

Aon has been on an acquisition trail since 1992, and bid for part of what is now Willis Corroon in 1996. KKR's bid values Willis Corroon at \$551 million and, under the transaction, KKR is taking a 76 per cent stake in the group.

Another 19 per cent is being acquired by five insurance companies and Willis Corroon's management is bidding for 5 per cent.

Willis Corroon has had difficulties recently in what has been a difficult period for many brokers.

If Aon succeeds in its bid for Willis Corroon it would be a big blow to KKR's ambitions in Europe. KKR, which gained notoriety for its aggressive buy-outs in the 1980s, could be a leading player in Europe's burgeoning buy-out market, with \$6 billion to spend on acquisitions.

Winterthur, the insurance arm of Swiss bank Credit Suisse, yesterday sold its reinsurer business to Partner Re for \$51.125 billion.

Credit Suisse, which bought Winterthur last year, is selling parts of the insurer to focus on more profitable areas. The reinsurer focuses on aviation as well as credit and surety reinsurance, which will complement Partner Re's property reinsurance.

Family float: round two



The Old Monk Free House

FAMILY rivalry has led to another managed pub chain announcing plans for a stock market flotation, writes Nicholas Bannister.

Gerry Martin yesterday said he planned to float his Old Monk pub group on the alternative investment market this month in a move to raise £25 million for expansion plans.

Six years ago, his brother Tim secured a full stock-market quotation for J.D. Wetherspoon, the group which upset traditional brewers by converting vacant commercial premises into pubs.

Brother Gerry was Wetherspoon's development manager until 1995, when he departed to set up his own pub group.

The group buys licensed and unlicensed sites and converts them into Old Monk pubs focused on regional and micro-brewery ales.

It now owns 18 pubs, mainly in the City of London and the South-east. Most of them are on large high-street sites.

The group aims to expand throughout Britain. Gerry Martin, chairman and managing director, said: "In 12 months' time, we hope to have 30 sites, and 50 in three years' time."

He added that the group's growth so far had been funded from operating cashflow, bank borrowing and a £1.24 million placing in February this year which, he said, brought in family, friends and a number of individual City investors as shareholders.

Mr Martin, who will still hold 60 per cent of the group's shares after the flotation, named the company's first pub — in London's Grays Inn Road, pictured above — after the first pub he ever owned, Ye Olde Monken Holt, in Barnet, Hertfordshire.

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Euro leads FTSE to change indices

Jill Treanor

PREPARATIONS for the introduction of the euro have prompted changes to the benchmark indices used to gauge stock market movements around the world.

FTSE International, the company which compiles indices such as the FTSE 100 and others, yesterday announced a new way of classifying stocks which make up the indices.

Graham Colbourne, operations director of FTSE International, said the new system would make it easier for investors to make comparisons between market sectors in different parts of the world.

This is expected to become more important once Europe's single currency is introduced because investors will be able to invest in, say, France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom without incurring currency movements.

The London Stock Exchange is already working with Deutsche Börse of Germany to create a single European stock market to trade the top 300 stocks in Europe.

FTSE International is hopeful that the exchanges will use its Eurotop series of indices as the benchmark for European stocks.

"We think our series of indices are well suited to the changes will make them more coherent."

Under the new classification system FTSE International will seek to iron out discrepancies by using the same definitions for stocks in every sector in every market worldwide.



Toshiba cuts losses with merger

US market leader absorbs air-conditioning operation, reports Nicholas Bannister

TOSHIBA, the Japanese electrical group that is struggling to retain its profitability in the face of the Far East economic troubles, said yesterday that it had agreed to merge its loss-making air-conditioning operation with those of America's Carrier Group in Japan, Britain and Thailand.

Carrier, the world's largest maker of air-conditioning equipment, has a big share of the market for large-scale equipment for offices

and factories, whereas Toshiba mainly makes small air-conditioning units for the home.

The Japanese group will be the majority shareholder in the joint venture, which will take in 2,500 Toshiba employees and all the company's domestic air-conditioning equipment plants, while Carrier will control the British joint venture. The two companies will own equal stakes in the Thailand venture.

Toshiba's president, Taizo Nishimuro, said yesterday that separating the air-conditioning business from the parent company would more than halve the operating losses of the consumer electronics division.

The joint ventures are due to come into effect in April next year.

They are expected to achieve a profit in their first year of operations, not least by providing Toshiba's largely domestic air-conditioning business with access to an international market.

Mr Nishimuro said that the main Toshiba group was making last-ditch efforts to avoid

reporting a loss for the first half of the current year.

Toshiba has been involved in a number of joint ventures in recent years, including nuclear power plant design and construction with General Electric of the US and flash chip manufacturing with South Korea's Samsung.

News in brief

Sakura prompts Tokyo recovery

The slide in Tokyo stock prices was halted yesterday by news that one of Japan's biggest banks plans to shore up its finances with support from business partners, writes Jonathan Watts in Tokyo.

Sakura Bank, Japan's sixth largest financial institution, said it would seek a capital injection of 300 billion yen (£1.25 billion) by offering shares to Toyota Motors and 20 companies in the Mizuho group.

Led by a 12 per cent rise in Sakura's share price, the Nikkei regained 192 points, to close 1,338 per cent above last Friday's 12-year low.

Microsoft search

Microsoft has requested internal e-mail from upset Netscape Communications employees as evidence for a possible line of defence in its anti-trust battle with the US government and state attorneys.

The software multinational has subpoenaed internal e-mails from Netscape staff and may use some of the more embarrassing e-mails to say that Netscape's setbacks in the Internet browser market

EC clears defence deal

Britain's General Electric and Italy's Finmeccanica have won European Commission approval to merge parts of their defence-electronics subsidiaries into a new business in Holland with sales of £1 billion — Bloomberg.

Tchuruk quits in protest

Serge Tchuruk, the chairman of Alcatel and one of France's most respected businessmen, has resigned from the board of Aerospaciale, citing potential conflicts of interest. His resignation was seen as a protest about the merger of state-owned Aerospaciale and Matra Haras Technologies, a competitor to Alcatel in satellites. — Bloomberg.

Skoda site in Bosnia

Volkswagen Sarajevo, a car-making company jointly owned by VW and the Bosnian state, yesterday formally opened a manufacturing plant on a site abandoned at the start of the Bosnian war. The new plant at Vogošća, near the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, will make the Skoda Felicia.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.88	Germany 2.8911	Malaysia 6.92	Singapore 2.90
Austria 20.27	Greece 504.81	Malta 0.88	South Africa 10.58
Belgium 20.27	Hong Kong 12.50	Netherlands 3.25	Spain 243.50
Canada 2.55	India 68.99	New Zealand 3.92	Sweden 16.53
Cyprus 0.846	Ireland 1.424	Norway 13.39	Switzerland 2.57
Denmark 11.07	Israel 6.24	Portugal 254.19	Turkey 442.750
Finland 5.89	Italy 2.068	Saudi Arabia 5.15	USA 1.6142
France 6.68			

Supplied by Reuters (excluding rupee, shilling and malawi)

Ivanisevic powers on in silence

Stephen Bierley
in New York

THERE was a time when a pilot's strike during the US Open would have been greeted with unanimous and unconfined joy, for the flight path into or out of La Guardia airport is directly above the tennis courts of Flushing Meadows.

But a few years ago the former mayor, David Dinkins, a keen tennis fan, pulled off a sharp political coup when he managed to force the airline authorities, by way of stiff fines, to re-route their planes during the tournament.

So the current Northwest airlines strike did not have any marked effect on the noise levels yesterday except, perhaps, for such tender flowers as Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic who can be put off his game by the rustle of a crane's wings.

Apart from his semi-final appearance two years ago, America has singularly failed to see the best of Ivanisevic. He has never won a title in the United States, and just over a week ago he was beaten by Slovakia's Karol Kucera in the final of the New Haven tournament.

His opponent, Australia's 32-year-old doubles specialist Mark Woodforde, appeared just the sort of player likely to give Ivanisevic the maximum of trouble but on a pleasantly clear late summer's day, with a refreshing breeze sweeping away the overnight humidity, the Croatian displayed indomitable form to win in straight sets 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

So the seemingly impervious gloom which had descended upon Ivanisevic after he lost this year's Wimbledon final to Pete Sampras has

lifted, although there were few prepared to suggest that the light was now sufficiently intense to guide him to his first Grand Slam title. New York would probably need to be completely silent for a whole fortnight.

Woodforde has never been Ivanisevic's best friend, and yesterday delivered a smash into the Croatia's back. "All he has is a serve," said the Australian disparagingly to which Ivanisevic replied: "He's pretty old, he should retire from the singles."

Greg Rusedski, last year's best player, opens against South Africa's Wayne Ferreira today, while Tim Henman's first-round match against Scott Draper of Australia is likely to be played tomorrow.

Rusedski's ankle, injured during the Stella Artois tournament, is apparently fully mended, and the British No. 1 feels he is playing well. "The one trouble is that when it comes to the big points I don't feel able to step up a gear."

He may need to against Ferreira, who on his day is capable of giving anybody severe trouble with his booming forehand. It is an extremely tough start for Rusedski.

The Lawn Tennis Association announced today that the Rover/LTA School of Excellence at Bisham Abbey national sports centre will close next year. Ian Barclay, the full-time coach at Bisham, will now become the LTA's technical and tactical consultant.

Richard Lewis, the LTA's director of international and professional tennis, did his best to add a little gloss, but the harsh truth is that since its inception in 1983 the school successes have been limited — and failure would not be too harsh a word.

Rugby League

Super League: Bradford 24 Castleford 8

Bulls edge to play-off berth

Andy Wilson

MATTHEW ELLIOTT, Bradford's Australian coach, said this week that he deliberately stormed out of a press conference after last Sunday's defeat at Halifax to make a point to his players.

The tactic seemed to have worked as at Old Trafford yesterday there could be no doubting the Bulls' commitment in seeing off an equally determined Castleford challenge.

With James Lowes setting an inspirational example, Bradford surged to a 10-0 lead in nine minutes, and although it took them another hour to add a second try, that was down to a magnificent defensive effort from Castleford.

This victory should ensure that Bradford avoid the embarrassment of failing to qualify for the top-five play-offs. They remain fifth but now have a four-point cushion over the London Broncos, who they face at The Stoop next Sunday.

Whether Bradford are capable of beating the four teams above them, as they would then have to do to retain their Super League crown, must remain in considerable doubt.

"I have been involved with top-five series before and it's always the team that goes into the semi on a roll that's the difficult one to handle," said Elliott. "I don't think any team relishes facing us when we play with that intensity."

Certainly, Bradford have a pack to match the best, with Neil Harmon and this week's Harvey Howard, who made a quiet but promising debut 48 hours after arriving from

Australia, bolstering a front row in which Lowes and Brian McDermott were outstanding yesterday.

Berard Dwyer also returned from injury to stiffen up the defence and Sonny Nickle will be back for the play-offs.

But the Bulls still look short of firepower in the backs. Stuart Spruce is a first-class full-back and Tevin Valkona continues to excel on the wing, but they are carrying too much stacking responsibility.

Of Bradford's three tries, Lowes made the first for Spruce and scored the last himself, with the second and crucial score coming on 69 minutes when Jon Scales punished an error from Mike Smith to squeeze over in the corner.

Castleford fought back bravely from their early deficit with a try and two goals from their lively young stand-off Danny Orr.

Steve McNamara kicked the fourth of his six goals for Bradford just before the break when Dean Sampson was put on report for a high tackle, and added another on 67 minutes after a strong run by Spruce.

But the Tigers soaked up all the Bulls' pressure, without ever threatening the Bradford line, until the late tries for Scales and Lowes.

Despite Elliott's optimism, that must be a real worry for Bradford.

Bradford's Spruce, Valkona, Bradley, McAvey, Scales, Paul, Osceola, Forshaw, McNamara, Seabright, Scales, Orr, Ford, McKel, Russell, Sampson, M. Smith, Harland, Bowles, Seabright, Schick, Flowers, Brian, Chapman, Bowles, S. Cummings, (Wales)

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

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Blackburn	64	Leeds United	76	Sheff. Wed.	69
Bolton	65	Leicester City	77	Southampton	60
Brentford	66	Liverpool	78	Spurs	91
Burnley	67	Man. City	79	Stoke City	92
Celtic	68	Man. United	80	Sunderland	93
Charlton	69	Millwall	81	Walsford	94
Chelsea	70	Middlesbrough	82	West Ham	95
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Crystal Palace	72	Norwich City	84	Wolves	97
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The Guardian INTERACTIVE



Spectator sport... Mansell's mangled car has a perfect view as the rest of the field in the day's first race speed by at Druids Bend

PHOTOGRAPHS: TOM SHAW

Mansell puts his Mondeo through the mincer at Brands



Rueful... old dog, hard road

Alan Henry sees the 1992 F1 champion crash out twice in a day

THERE was more than a touch of déjà vu at Brands Hatch yesterday where Nigel Mansell's latest foray in the Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship ended with his Ford Mondeo being pushed out of both the sprint and feature races.

If reports are to be believed, Mansell is receiving anything between £500,000 and £2 million to help develop the uncompetitive Mondeo and drive it in three championship rounds. His final outing will be at Silverstone on September

20, almost certainly bringing to an end an association with the British championship which stretches back to his first race in a Mondeo in 1993 — when he collided with a circuit bridge and had to be cut from the wreckage of his car.

On that occasion the Englishman was cast in the role of returning hero, arriving at Donington Park after a year's exile in the United States where he drove a Lola-Ford to the IndyCar championship. Yesterday's performance was equally disappointing, if rather less

dramatic, on the Kent circuit where he scored two memorable grand-prix victories in 1985-86. "I am pleased to be in one piece. It's been a great learning experience again," said the 1992 Formula One champion. "The team did a fantastic job to repair my car between races but I got pushed off again for a second time. I seem to have bulls-eyes all over it. "I made a great start in the first race but was eliminated on only the second corner in a big accident. In

the second race the guy involved in the collision apologised and I accepted it was just a racing accident." In his first race this season at Donington Mansell had shown all his old flair when he defied wet conditions and tore into the lead, but yesterday's performance left the 40,000-strong full house unmoved. In fact he lasted just 50 seconds of the morning's sprint, his Mondeo taking extensive body and engine damage when hitting the Druids Bend tyre wall at speed after a collision. At least he lasted 50 laps of the 50-lap afternoon race. Both races were hotly

contested before Nissan's Anthony Reid apparently became the first man to win two races in a day in this year's series. But the Scot took the chequered flag in the second only after grabbing the lead late on with a controversial overtaking manoeuvre on the Volvo of Richard Rydell, the overall series leader. Touring cars may not be quite Formula One but Reid and Rydell then provided a Michael Schumacher-style finale with an eyeball-in-eyeball row in the pit lane. The Brands stewards shared the Swede's low opinion of Reid's driving and reversed placings.

Terror and relief underline need to see sense through the spray

Alan Henry

THE terror etched on Michael Schumacher's face as he pushed his way into the McLaren pit on Sunday to remonstrate with David Coulthard said it all. The German knew how fortunate he had been to escape injury in their 140mph collision during the rain-soaked Belgian Grand Prix.

Only the ripping off of his Ferrari's right front wheel as he attempted to dodge the McLaren at the last second prevented Schumacher from being pitched into a back-ward flip. It may partly excuse an outburst of temper which was out of order and out of character.

Yet Ferrari know all about the terror of just zero visibility. Practising for the 1992 German Grand Prix at Hockenheim, their French driver Didier Pironi ran into the back of Alain Prost's Renault in an identical incident.

In those days chassis construction was primitive by the standards of today. Pironi was pitched into a reverse somersault, the front of the car being shattered as it nose-dived into the tarmac. Cut from the twisted wreckage with multiple leg injuries, Pironi never raced again.

Being hit by Pironi was a salutary experience for Prost. Although he went on to win 51 grands prix and four world championships before retiring in 1993, he hated racing in heavy rain and even pulled out of the swamped 1988 British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

"Racing in the rain is one thing," he said. "Racing when you cannot see anything is entirely another." Prost was at Spa on Sunday as a team owner and he watched the chaos unfolding on the circuit with deep concern, wondering if this sport would ever learn his obvious lesson.

"You have to question the safety issues today," said David Richards, the Benetton chief executive after the race, in which one of his cars was wrecked when Giancarlo Fisichella ran into the back of Shinji Nakano's Minardi and the other, driven by Alexander Wurz, crashed out.

Most of the incidents were cars running into the back of another because they were actually running across the spray. With the damage we have suffered today and the accidents both our drivers were involved in, I am just thankful that nobody was hurt."

lan's accident when conditions were at their worst. "On my last 10 laps the visibility was zero," said Fisichella. "Damon Hill was more cautious: 'It was very tricky. It was over raining really hard but it was raining at different parts of the circuit. Some parts were very wet, some parts were not so wet. But visibility was terrible.'"

Racing in such an environment is all part of the sport's fabric. But, with the Belgian race ending with abandoned cars being plundered for souvenirs by uncontrolled spectators and two onlookers actually running across the finishing straight seconds after Hill's Jordan took the chequered flag, there are questions to be answered.

Eddie Jordan took time off from Jordan to launch his first victory to launch an attack on Michael Schumacher. The Irishman accused him of trying to persuade his younger brother Ralf, second on Sunday behind Damon Hill, to move from Jordan to Williams for next season. "I was not amused by Michael's efforts to tell Ralf to switch teams for next season," said Jordan. "Michael accused me of being greedy a money grabber, and he should be the last person to accuse anyone of that."

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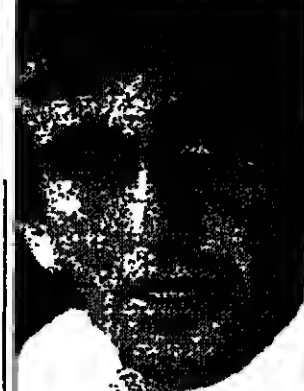
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Prost... hated the rain

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Rugby Union Under-fire Hart given vote of confidence

Sam Mallin

JOHN HART, the All Blacks coach, has received what every Premiership football manager dreams — the vote of confidence.

However, Hart's backing from the New Zealand Rugby Union chairman Rob Fisher may be slightly more welcome than it would be at White Hart Lane.

The All Blacks' 19-14 defeat by Australia in Sydney last weekend completed an unprecedented run of five straight defeats and Hart has offered to stand down amid a welter of criticism in his rugby-mad land.

Fisher, though, said yesterday that Hart could be expected to continue a three-year contract which takes him to next year's World Cup in Wales and England, a tournament New Zealand will be hoping to win for the first time in 12 years.

Hart's team lost the Bledisloe Cup series 3-0 to Australia for the first time since 1929 and were also defeated twice by South Africa in the Tri Nations series. The five defeats came after New Zealand started the domestic season with two convincing wins against England.

"I don't think his position is under threat," Fisher said on New Zealand radio. "It certainly isn't as far as I am concerned. He does have a three-year contract."

Fisher said the five reverses were unacceptable, but the fact New Zealand squandered winning chances in four of them had helped Hart.

"Had we lost five Tests and lost them all badly I think that would be a different issue," Fisher said. "Five losses are very hard to take, but what was so aggravating was that it was conceivable we could have won four of those five Tests."

"While there is a lot of emphasis on the World Cup no one should ever say it's okay to lose Tests on the way through because we just want to win the World Cup."

Fisher said he had spoken to all but one board member since Saturday and no one had expressed a desire to have Hart removed. "My impression was one firmly of support," Fisher added.

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Racing

Star victory down to French polish

Chris Hawkins sees local knowledge put to good use in the gentleman's 'Derby'

SAVOIR-FAIRE had more than a little to do with the victory of French doctor Patrick Pailhes on the 14-1 chance Nautical Star in the Moot & Chandoo Silver Mugnum, the amateurs' Derby, at Epsom yesterday.

Pailhes was paying his second visit to the track after finishing sixth in the race last year and it was the knowledge gleaned from that experience that proved invaluable this time.

"Epsom is like nowhere else and last year I was surprised how fast they went," said Pailhes. "My horse Hazard A. Guess never got into the race, so this time I knew I had to be closer." Pailhes carried out his plan of campaign by lying second until taking over from Night City at halfway and thereafter steadily resisting the challenge of Opera Buff and Jim Crowley.



Roberts... at the double

over a mile and a half for the first time and saw out the trip really well. He is trained at Lambourn by John Hills, who became the first to achieve a jockey-trainer double in the race, having ridden Lamen to win in 19 years ago.

Hills confessed he knew little about the ability of his jockey and "took a punt" after hearing that Pailhes was the leader in the International Paganini championship for amateurs this season.

"I was afraid that he had gone too soon, but now I must say he rode very sensibly," commented the trainer. "The same could not be said of Night City's rider Michael Rosport, who set off like a scalded cat and was soon at least 10 lengths clear. Ridden without a semblance of restraint by a jockey whose style and style alone is reminiscent of Lester Piggott — ultra-short irons with bottom pointing heavenward — the gelding was inevitably a spent force before halfway."

Rutland Chantry was sent off favourite to give his owner The Queen a hat-trick in the race, but after threatening briefly three out he faded to finish sixth.

The Tote Southern Sprint Handicap carried a £50,000 bonus for the winner if indigenous horse won, but Pailhes' victory was not enough to secure the bonus, as the world record of 53.6 seconds for five furlongs could be lowered, but although Repertory made a gallant attempt by making all the running, he failed by just under half a second.

Repertory showed tremendous dash down the hill and was over in danger, eventually beating Alzan by two and a half lengths.

"If he can ping and dominate, he loves it," said Mal-

colm Saunders, the winning trainer. "He's not difficult at home, but I have to work him on his own otherwise he takes everything else off his legs. The secret is to give him time between his races and I've been guilty of running him too quickly on occasions."

Russell Price, the jockey, had no hesitation in describing the ride as "the fastest I've ever been on a horse" and he talks from some experience, having ridden winners in Australia and the States.

Price, 30, hails from Newmarket and was apprenticed to Willie Musson and Robert Armstrong before leaving to ply his trade in America, where he rode in Kentucky. He then moved to Australia to work for the legendary Colin Hayes before returning to this country four years ago.

This was only his 13th winner of the season and like many good but unflashy riders he lacks the opportunity. Michael Roberts knows all about that and it seems a long time now since he was champion jockey.

Having had only 333 rides during the season, compared to Kieren Fallon's 880, he took his winners' tally to 35 with a double on Relative Shade and Gaily Mill, both efforts being well-timed late challenges.

Arguably the most impressive winner of the afternoon was Generous Libra in the Tiffany & Co Conditions Stakes. It was a victory which left form-book students scratching their heads because at York last time Generous Libra had been beaten over three lengths by Supreme Sound and was meeting that rival on 5lb worse terms.

This time Generous Libra was swinging off the bridle two furlongs out and it was just a question of bow far Richard Hann decided to press the button.



Show time... Repertory takes star billing with an all-the-way win in the Tote Southern Sprint at Epsom

PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Amateur rider in intensive care after Fontwell fall

Norm Rossiter, a 22-year-old amateur rider, is in intensive care in a Chichester hospital after taking a crashing fall at Fontwell yesterday.

Partnering Hever Golf

Charmer in the opening race, Rossiter came down at the second last hurdle. He was stretched into an ambulance and taken to St Richards Hospital with suspected head injuries, but tests later revealed no obvious signs of brain damage.

A hospital spokesman

said: "Mr Rossiter was unconscious when he arrived. We gave him a brain scan but he later regained consciousness. He has fractured a hip, but is now in a stable condition and has been transferred to our intensive care unit. He is no longer critical."

Uttoxeter (N.H.)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
2.15	Hopfield Lord
2.25	Flagship Theatre
3.15	Reed Dancer
3.45	Thursday Night (nap)
4.05	Shirley Marx (nb)
4.45	Stirling For Stroke

Left-handed oval track of 10m with 170yds turn. Easy bends and only a few undulations. Seven day winners: None. Disqualified or withdrawn first time: None. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Fall.

Ripon Jackpot card with guide to the form

ROM COX	TOP FORM
2.30	James Dee
3.00	Peoria
3.20	Thames
4.00	Ally High
4.30	The Nurse
5.00	Sharp Shooter
5.30	Manxman

Right-handed, rather sharp course of 1m5f with 50m turn. Straight 6f. Going: Good to firm. + Donkeys blunders. + Top form noted. Seven day winners: 3.30 M55 FL. Disqualified first time: 2.30 Driest Star, 4.30 High Dominator, 5.30 High Explorer. Withdrawn: 4.00 Ally High. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumpers.

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4.45	Stirling For Stroke

2.30 M55 FL (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
2.30	James Dee
3.00	Peoria
3.20	Thames
4.00	Ally High
4.30	The Nurse
5.00	Sharp Shooter
5.30	Manxman

3.30 CLARION STAKES 2Y0 (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
3.30	James Dee
4.00	Ally High
4.30	The Nurse
5.00	Sharp Shooter
5.30	Manxman

5.00 DEVERELL CLAIMING STAKES (DW 2) (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
5.00	James Dee
5.30	Manxman

2.45 VANGUARD PUBS & RESTAURANTS 'NBT' NOVICE HURDLE (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
2.45	James Dee
3.15	Reed Dancer
3.45	Thursday Night (nap)
4.05	Shirley Marx (nb)
4.45	Stirling For Stroke

3.00 DEVERELL CLAIMING STAKES (DW 1) (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
3.00	James Dee
3.30	Manxman

4.00 TWEETFAIR HURDLE (SHOWCASE RACE) (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
4.00	James Dee
4.30	The Nurse
5.00	Sharp Shooter
5.30	Manxman

5.30 WEATHERBYS FINANCE HURDLE (DW 2) (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
5.30	James Dee
6.00	Manxman

4.15 VANGUARD PUBS & RESTAURANTS HPCAP HURDLE (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
4.15	James Dee
4.45	Stirling For Stroke

4.30 SAPPER HURDLE (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
4.30	James Dee
5.00	Sharp Shooter
5.30	Manxman

4.45 MOBILEHOME GROUP NOVICE HURDLE (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
4.45	James Dee
5.15	Manxman

5.30 NEWTON ABBOT (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
5.30	James Dee
6.00	Manxman

5.45 HUNTINGDON (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
5.45	James Dee
6.15	Manxman

5.00 SOUTHWELL (10 declared)

ROM COX	TOP FORM
5.00	James Dee
5.30	Manxman

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Football

Owen aims to finish as he has started

Martin Thorpe hears Glenn Hoddle greet the teenager as the 'country's top striker' but make it plain he has plenty to learn yet

A WORLD CUP place, a world-class goal, Sunday's 15-minute hat-trick and described by the England coach as "the top striker in the country at the moment". Can things get any better for Michael Owen?

He certainly hopes so. "I've achieved a lot in a short time," he said, "but I hope I've got some more achievements to come. This is just the beginning. I haven't even won anything domestically yet."

The weekend demolition of Newcastle offered encouraging early signs that Liverpool may be close. And this Saturday France 98 gives way to Sweden, in their quest to win Euro 2000.

The new season sees a new Owen. He still scores and speaks with a maturity beyond his years. But the events of June changed forever the way he is perceived as a player.

He is no longer the unknown 18-year-old sitting on the England bench. Every coach in the world now knows what Owen is capable of and will make adjustments accordingly whenever their sides meet.

How Owen copes with this will, perhaps, be the deciding factor in whether the lad from Liverpool turns out to be a shooting star or a permanent fixture in the strikers' firmament alongside the likes of Geri Muller and Jimmy Greaves.

"The natural goalscorers, the Greaveses and Millers, did it over five or six seasons," said the England coach Glenn Hoddle. "He's on target to do that, but we won't know that until the record is there."

"But now the whole world has got respect for Michael and they know what he's capable of. They have certainly seen his pace, so defenders will make decisions to get tight and don't let him turn or to drop

off a little bit and give him that respect. So there are things that Michael is going to have to put into his game. The effect of respect, though, works both ways and the more opponents fear you, the easier life can be. On Saturday in Stockholm Owen faces the first post-Argentina test of that theory, Hoddle is confident that he should have no problem.

"His self-belief and single-mindedness on the pitch is what impresses me," he said. "They are Owen's characteristics off the pitch too. 'I always wanted to be a top-class player and I always thought I would get there,'" he explained matter-of-factly.

Butt down in the mouth

GLENN HODDLE had planned to replace the injured David Batty with Nicky Butt for the Sweden game, but the midfielder is out because of a troublesome wisdom tooth. Jamie Redknapp is likely to start. David Beckham is suspended while the defender Rio Ferdinand is doubtful.

So sure, in fact, that before he was famous he studied how players gave interviews, the Greaveses and Millers, did it over five or six seasons," said the England coach Glenn Hoddle. "He's on target to do that, but we won't know that until the record is there."

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Heading for the stars... Michael Owen tries, for once, to avoid hitting the net as Jamie Redknapp looks on. TOM JENNINGS

Gullit in hitch over Clarke

Michael Walker

RUUD GULLIT spent his first day at the office as manager of Newcastle United yesterday and the shock of the 4-1 hammering by Liverpool on Sunday, he found himself with another problem. In the wake of Terry McDermott's departure Gullit wants Steve Clarke of Chelsea to be his assistant but Clarke wants to come in the role of player-coach, thereby doubling his money.

Freddie Fletcher, Newcastle's chief executive, is understood to be opposed to any increase in Newcastle's immense wage bill. Clarke is player-coach at Chelsea but at 35 he may have difficulty persuading Newcastle that the club needs to add another player to a first-team squad of more than 20.

Gullit, Clarke and Fletcher were involved in discussions at St James' Park yesterday aimed at finding a compromise solution.

One of the large squad, Keith Gillespie, said yesterday that he intends to play in Northern Ireland's European Championship qualifier in Turkey on Saturday despite not having appeared for Newcastle for four-and-a-half months.

The left-winger Gillespie injured his right ankle in April and would have completed a transfer to Middlesbrough a month ago but for Boro's doubts about the extent of his recovery.

But Gillespie said yesterday: "I have been through strenuous rehabilitation and I've been fit, ready and available for about 10 days now. I am on the trip to Turkey and I am determined to play. I have spoken to Lawrie McKenney and I hope he picks me."

Overseas football

Rijkaard gets coach's job as Dutch turn back clock

Chris Taylor

FRANK RIJKAARD's last match as a player brought the European Cup to Holland when he was the wise old head in the young Ajax side which defeated his old club Milan in 1995. Now the Dutch FA is hoping that as a coach he can pull off the same trick for the national side.

Rijkaard has signed a two-year contract to lead the national team to the European Championship in 2000, which Holland is co-hosting with Belgium, with an option for a further two years. He becomes the first black man to manage a side which has been in recent years plagued by stories of racial tension.

Rijkaard was a member of the Dutch team which won the 1988 European Championship, winning 73 caps in total and scoring 10 goals from midfield.

His deputy is Johan Neeskens, a star of the great Dutch side of the 1970s and a fellow graduate of the Dutch FA's accelerated coaching programme for leading ex-players.

The fact that Rijkaard and Neeskens are assistants to the France 98 coach Guus Hiddink will provide valuable continuity, although the Dutch FA is expected to have approached Johan Cruyff and the former Celtic coach Wim Jansen before skipping a generation and opting for Rijkaard, aged 35.

It is notable that despite Ruud Gullit's conspicuous unemployment over the summer, Dutch football found no need to call upon his services. His reputation in England as a football brain has never travelled to the Netherlands.

After their good World Cup, the Dutch will be one of the favourites at Euro 2000 but while the championships are coming to Holland, the country's leading players are heading in the opposite direction.

Of the 18 players who took the field in France only the goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar is committed to his home league. The De Boer brothers, Frank and Ronald, are still contracted to Ajax after losing their court case but remain determined to join the former Ajax coach Louis van Gaal at Barcelona, who already have six Dutch players on their books.

The Spanish League has its next transfer window in mid-December and Frank de Boer insisted: "Either we play with Ajax until December and then go to Barcelona, or we stay at Ajax for the whole season and then start next year with Barcelona. It's just a matter of time."

Nationwide First Division

Bradford City 2
Birmingham City 1

Moore stops the rot for Bradford

Derek Potter

TREVOR FRANCIS believes that Birmingham City's gung-ho style makes them a team for the winter than the energy-draining summer. He may well be proved right in the end, after taking the lead his team conceded two goals from corner kicks and failed to ward off a first defeat of the season.

"Our players shirked responsibilities in not making challenges and in that manner is disappointing," Francis said. He was honest enough to admit the obvious: that the goal apart, his own strike force was "ineffective".

It was a first win for Bradford City when the chairman Geoffrey Richmond spent \$3.5 million in the summer and then announced in his programme notes that "we have too many strikers at the club".

Some solid defending by Michael Johnson, and later by his replacement Darren Purse, and Gary Ablett suggested Bradford had successfully hidden their strike force from view. Then after Peter Ndlovu sweetly volleyed their opening goal for Birmingham from a deflected pass by Martin Grainger in the 56th minute, Bradford suddenly became the stronger and more enterprising team. "I suppose that win makes us promotion candidates and puts Trevor's job at risk," said Paul Jewell, whose team had scraped just one point up until yesterday.

"It's always dangerous to make predictions too early in the season."

Lee Mills, a £1 m slice of the transfer dealings, emerged at the far post to powerfully head home a corner kick by Gareth Whalley (a £500,000 buy) and claim a deserved 56th-minute equaliser.

Stuart McCall advanced from his deep-laying role in midfield to urge Bradford forward and Whalley drove another corner into the flight path of the defender Darren Moore whose winning header was even more powerful than that by Mills 14 minutes earlier. Moore was voted Man of the Match. No one, least of all Birmingham's subdued giant striker Dele Adebola, could argue with that.

Albion are annihilated

WEST BROM'S manager Denis Smith blamed poor defending from set-pieces for his side's first-half capitulation at Grimsby where they lost their first Division unbeaten record in a 3-1 defeat.

Peter Hargreaves, Wayne Burnard, Kingsley Black, David Smith and Paul Groves each scored for Grimsby with Richard Snedden replying.

The first goal came after a corner while the second followed a free-kick and West Brom were 4-0 down at the break.

Smith said: "The first two goals were disappointing. We did not deal with straight-forward balls into the box."

But he felt the second half was an improvement. "We hit the bar and had enough chances to score four goals ourselves."

Grimsby had three former Albion players in their side and one, the Mariners' skipper Groves, was delighted to get on the scoresheet with a penalty.

Groves, who was not popular with the crowd at The Hawthorns, enjoyed the win and his part in it. "I got a bit of a raw deal from the people down there," he said. And of the penalty, after Jack Lester had been brought down, he said: "There was some feeling, some venom in that penalty."

Two goals in three minutes for Bury in a 3-0 win maintained their unbeaten run this season and piled more misery on Swindon, still looking for their first league win.

The game was evenly balanced until the 62nd minute when Dean Barrow met a Rob Matthews cross and fired the ball into the bottom corner of the net. A minute later Bar-

rick was involved in the second goal. His cross was flicked on by Andy Preece and the unmarked Matthews scored from six yards.

The third goal came in the 76th minute, when the striker Preece scored his first goal for Bury after his summer signing from Blackpool with a shot that the Australian keeper Frank Talia got a hand to but could not stop it rolling into the net.

Ipswich and Barnsley won their first games of the season, Ipswich beating the bottom club Port Vale 3-0 at Vale Park with a shot that the Australian keeper Frank Talia got a hand to but could not stop it rolling into the net.

Clive Walker, once of Chelsea, became the first man to score 100 league goals and 100 goals in non-league football when he got Chelsea's first in the 16th minute of their 4-1 Conference win over Barrow.

goal since leaving Exeter. Ray Harford, the Rangers manager, kept his players in the dressing-room afterwards, and while the margin may have flattered Portsmouth, the result did not.

Harford said: "We have not won away for almost a year, but if I did not think I could turn things around, there would be no point in going forward."

Portsmouth (4-4-2): Fishburn, Whitfield, Thorne, Simpson, McLoughlin, Wischo, Hillier, 100 Phillips, Tait, Alder, Clarke. Queens Park Rangers (4-4-2): Harper, Ross, Roddy (Ireland, 77), Madell, Barclay, Murray, Slide, Parnock, Scully, Shotton (Kenny, 43), Gatten. Referee: K. Leach (Gillingham).

Within eight minutes he had got away down the left and crossed for Alan McLoughlin to score with a header at the near post. Then, deep into injury time, Phillips whipped in his first league

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Wolves 2
Stockport County 2

Angell comes down like fire on the Wolves

Ron Warrilow

MARK MC GHEE put on Wolves squandered the chance of going clear at the top of the table by throwing away a two-goal advantage to Stockport County at Molineux. "Eventually we had to lose a goal or two," said the manager. "We have dropped a couple of points. So what? There are another 42 games to go."

A fifth successive victory would have earned Wolves the top spot in the league but, he said, "we are grateful to be five games unbeaten". The way his men collapsed, though, to a spirited comeback must have given him cause for concern.

Wolves were coasting on the back of well-taken goals from Dean Richards and the new Spanish signing Fernando but in the 63rd County keeper Gary Megson drew from a brilliant brace of strikes from Brett Angell.

"I was very pleased with the fight-back but not with the fact that we had to fight back," said Stockport's manager Gary Megson. "We showed them too much respect."

It took Wolves only six minutes to also open the County defence, Richards stabbing the ball home at close range after a shot from the impressive Steve Froggatt rebounded to his feet off the bar. Then, beyond the half-hour, Fernando, who scored more than 100 goals for Valencia at the rate of one every fourth game, opened his Wolves account. Mika Elia headed clear a cross from Simon Osborn, only for the 32-year-old Spaniard to unleash a shot from 25 yards past Carlo Nash.

But Wolves, instead of piling on the pressure, eased off and before the break Angell glanced home a free-kick from the former Wolves midfielder Paul Cook. Shortly afterwards he struck again, punishing slack defensive play by flicking the ball past Mike Towell at the near post to a cross from Ian Moore.

Wolves (4-4-2): Stewart, Whalley, Naylor (Connolly, 71 min), Richards, Gough, Curia, Froggatt, Fernando, Nash, Connolly, Woodhouse, Cook, Flynn, McIntosh, Gatten, Brown, Williams (Clifton, 50), Horne, Thornley, Stewart, Allan. Referee: A. Butler (Stanton in Ashfield).

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Football results

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE First Division

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Hornsea 4

Stockport (0) 2
Macclesfield 10

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Mansell crashes out, page 12

Hoddle raves about Owen, page 14

The gentlemen of Epsom, page 13

The case for pace, page 15

SportsGuardian

9 for 65

Muralitharan's spin sends England to 10-wicket defeat

SHEER GENIUS had its way at The Oval yesterday when Muthiah Muralitharan, an off-spinner with an action that might get him a job as a circus contortionist, bowled Sri Lanka to victory on the final day of the one-off match, producing some of the most remarkable figures ever seen.

England, 54 for two overnight, were finally dismissed for 181 shortly before five o'clock, with Muralitharan taking nine for 65 from 54.2 overs, the seventh-best innings figures ever if only the third best on this ground.

But his match analysis of 16 for 230 has been bettered only in number of wickets by Jim Laker (19) and Sydney Barnes (17) and in terms of runs as well by Narendra Hirwani and Bob Massie. On a blameless pitch that had yielded four magnificent centuries, one of them a double, and on which no other bowler could make headway, this was bowling that bordered on fantasy.

Muralitharan's single-handed demolition of England left Sri Lanka 14 overs in which to score 36 to win. As they are fully capable of topping three figures inside 10 overs of a limited-overs match that was scarcely challenging. They required precisely five of them, and lost no wickets, with the honour of clipping the winning boundary falling to Marvan Atapattu.

But Sanath Jayasuriya had signed off in style by hitting Angus Fraser for two fours and a six in four balls and 19 of the over and then cutting Ben Hollis over extra cover for another six, finishing unbeaten on 24 from 17 deliveries. Sri Lanka have now beaten England in successive Tests at home and away, and are also one-day champions of the world.

When Muralitharan had retrieved the match ball from David Shepherd and retreated to the pavilion, the crowd gathered to salute a wonderful team achievement. England, remember, had made 445 in their first innings, sufficient in almost any circumstance to

Best Test bowling

Recent innings

JG Laker 10-51
Eng v Aus Old Trafford 1954

GA Lohmann 9-25
Eng v SA Johannesburg 1895-6

JG Laker 9-57
Eng v Aus Old Trafford 1954

RJ Hadlee 9-52
NZ v Aus Brisbane 1985-6

ABdul Qadir 9-56
Pak v Eng Lahore 1982-3

DE Malcolm 9-57
Eng v SA The Oval 1994

JG Laker 19-90
Eng v Aus Old Trafford 1954

SF Barnes 17-159
Eng v SA Johannesburg 1913-4

MD Hirwani 16-736
Ind v WI Madras 1952-3

RAJ Masole 16-157
Aus v Eng Lord's 1972

in a match

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during the partnership, just 29 were from Muralitharan and Arjuna Ranatunga was forced to chop and change his bowling to try and get at the tail-ender.

Rampkrash was finally out for 42, made in more than four hours of graft and spurred on perhaps by the fact that he ran Stewart out for 32, urging his captain to a quick single to square leg that might have been on had not the substitute fielder Upul Chandana pounced and thrown down the one stump he could see.

Gough had rained himself in admirably for almost 24 hours for his 15 before he was last out, bowled behind his legs trying to sweep.

Milestone after milestone was reached and passed by Muralitharan as he wore his spell, first from one end and then the other. When Ben Hollis was leg before wicket to his first ball, the opening delivery of the afternoon session, it equalled his best match haul of 12 wickets.

Eleven runs later, when Dominic Cork swept too vigorously and gloved a catch to the diving wicketkeeper, he had become only the fourth finger spinner, after Lance Gibbs, Derek Underwood and Bishan Singh Bedi, to reach 200 Test wickets.

Four balls later, with the demise of Ian Salisbury, he had equalled the 14 wickets taken in a Test on this ground by Australia's Demon Spout, 106 years ago and by Whistling Death, Michael Holding, 22 years since.

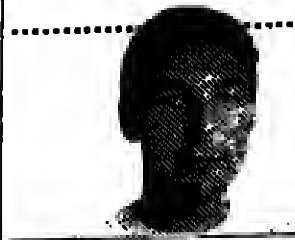
There was more. When Rampkrash flicked and Hashan Tillekeratne took a reflex catch at short leg, it gave him his eighth wicket, more than he had taken in a Test innings before and the one which made him the leading bowler in the world this year, taking him past Donald's 66 wickets. It had been a privilege to watch.

Leader comment, page 9

and David Hoops, page 15



Ballybunion bickering over Bill's day



Lawrence Donegan

NOTHING is simple in Irish political life but seldom can a single event have been so steeped in intrigue, with walk-on parts granted to "shadowy" big carriers, the US Masters champion, a plaster of paris statue and a hairdresser called "Monica's".

The event I am referring to, of course, is Bill Clinton's game of golf at the world-famous Ballybunion course in County Kerry this Saturday. Students of American politics will be aware that golf, along with the career prospects of White House interns, is a subject close to Mr Clinton's heart. He is currently bearded from indulging in both by his wife, Hillary. Bill's clubs were locked in the cupboard during the first family's recent holiday at Martha's Vineyard.

It was this passion (for golf, not Monica) which prompted an invitation to the President from the then Irish foreign minister Dick Spring in 1996 to play a round of golf at Ballybunion. A tee time was booked but unfortunately Mr Clinton had to cancel due to an unforeseen foreign policy crisis. The invitation stood and when it was announced earlier this summer that the President was returning to Ireland a Saturday afternoon tee time was quickly set aside.

Great plans were laid in Ballybunion, including the casting of a bronze statue of Mr Clinton in a suitable golfing pose. The town's development company drew up a route for a presidential walkabout.

So far, so good. However, students of American politics will also know that nothing involving Mr Clinton is ever straightforward and with in days of his visit to the Co Kerry links being confirmed there were murmurings of discontent from some locals.

Ballybunion is ranked as one of the world's best 10 courses. The waiting time to become a member is five years and the queue for a desirable Saturday afternoon tee time in September is only slightly shorter. "How come he can just turn up and walk on," one peeved member asked.

Such discontent was not confined to the 19th hole. Last week it emerged the Flanna

Fall government had made efforts to have Spring dropped from the presidential four-ball in favour of a more "suitable" candidate. Spring's Labour Party was routed at a general election last year and he is now a mere opposition backbencher.

A number of more "suitable" names were floated by Dublin, including the reigning US Masters champion Mark O'Meara. But the White House stood by Spring and he, along with the Irish finance minister Charlie McCreevy and the Ballybunion club captain, Brian McCarthy, have been handed the dubious honour of spending five hours with Mr Clinton without mentioning you-know-who.

THE choice of caddies for the four players has been equally fraught, especially when it emerged that the caddy-master at Ballybunion had stood for Sinn Féin at a council election. Official sources dismissed suggestions that this gentleman would be carrying the President's bag and said the caddy duties for the day would be carried out by four US Secret Service agents. (All four are expected to be hopeless on club selection but will no doubt be prepared to throw themselves in front of a bullet for the President should his ball be heading that way.)

But if the caddying on the course this Saturday promises to be bizarre, events off the course are destined to be positively surreal.

When he finishes his round Mr Clinton was scheduled to unveil the seven-foot statue in his honour but with work on the £20,000 bronze figure incomplete a plaster of paris replica is expected to do the honours.

The President was then due to go for a stroll through Ballybunion, although the town's development committee has not yet been told if the walkabout will actually take place. "The journalists will ask what kind of outfit he is wearing," said the committee's chairman when asked to ponder the Domesday scenario of a 30,000 crowd, a plaster of paris statue and no Bill Clinton.

However, hopes are high after "Monica's Hair Salon" in the high street was recently renamed "The President's Shop". Local rumour has it that the shop's owners were offered a roll of dollars by the Secret Service to change its name and thus spare Mr Clinton the indignity of being photographed outside an establishment bearing the name of his youthful nemesis.

Ballybunion, and the world's press, awaits with baited breath.

Super League not a way forward, says Shearer

Michael Walker finds Newcastle's striker lining up against a European breakaway

THE England captain Alan Shearer has come out against the proposed European Super League. Shearer described the idea of a breakaway league featuring the richest clubs as "wrong" and "for the sake of money".

The Newcastle striker also identified Wimbledon, whose success in a state of comparative poverty is the antithesis of the aims of those agitating for a breakaway league, as the true keeper of football's soul.

"I think it would be wrong," Shearer said of the Super League idea. "I think the game of football is tremendous at the moment especially in this country and to change all that for the sake of money... I understand that there is a hell of a lot of money in football at the moment, but for one or two or three, or however many clubs would break away, it would, in my opinion, be wrong."

"The beauty of the Premier League is that you go to the

so-called lesser teams and sometimes you get beaten. That's the beauty of football. You can go to Wimbledon on a cold Tuesday night and you do not know what to expect.

"Sometimes you can go there and win 3-0, on the other hand you can get your backsides kicked 3-0. I think that's what football is all about. And that's not being disrespectful to Wimbledon because I am one of their biggest fans."

Shearer felt that for reasons of tradition and history Newcastle United or Manchester United versus Wimbledon will always matter more than Newcastle playing Milan twice a season.

"From what I gather there wouldn't be any relegation or promotion yet that's what football is all about. The uncertainty of how the season unfolds is the great thing about football. I think if the Super League was created then a lot of that romance would be taken away."

Shearer, hardly a romantic, will surprise many with his opinion. Having been transferred for a total of £18.2 million in his career and said to be on wages of £20,000 per week, he has been one of the principal beneficiaries of English football's economic transformation of the past six years. He accepts that he has "an easier life than most".

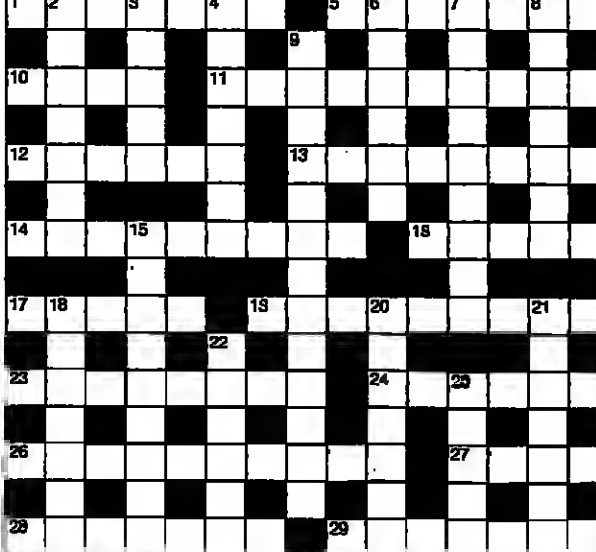
However, he will have delighted traditionalists and all supporters of smaller clubs with his remarks and may influence UEFA's apparent decision to challenge the financial allure of the lucrative league envisaged by the company Media Partners by restructuring the Champions League and UEFA Cup.

Shearer's concerns could also alarm the hierarchy at St James' Park. For a long time it has been the ambition of the former Newcastle chairman and present president Sir John Hall to see Newcastle participate in a European league, a development Hall has always considered inevitable. The man Newcastle broke the world record transfer fee for does not appear to agree with that.

The destroyer... Muthiah Muralitharan, who beat England virtually single-handed and double-jointed. "He is something else," said Alec Stewart. TOM JENKINS

Guardian Crossword No 21,368

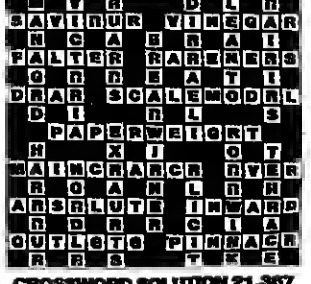
Set by Gordius



Across
1 Dress for a leading lady made out of scrap paper (7)
5 The devil's fellows at church (7)
10 She takes a turn in Hammersmith Palais (4)
11 Louts never make good soldiers (10)
12 Late in negotiating a settlement (6)
13, 23, 16, 3, 25 As the saying goes, a regular fatty diet helps you lose weight (8, 5, 4, 1, 5)
14 Equipment for police interview? (5, 4)
16 See 13
17 In all directions one is surrounded by hogs (5)
19 Satire can constitute a philosophy (9)

23 See 13
24 Missing books found by Leo (6)
25 Sharp cord in neat fashion (10)
27 'Ome on the river (4)
28 Missionary keeps to attention (7)
29 Ways for gunners going back to depot (7)

Down
2 It takes holy people to grow spice (7)
3 See 13
4 Hide dubious novel in record cover (7)
6 Caught a number of dogs (6)
7 Drink goes right to the head, to its detriment (9)
8 In a tight spot ring for an officer of the law (7)
9 Veteran grandma gets involved with police (3, 10)
15 Plots study... a feature of Oxford... (9)

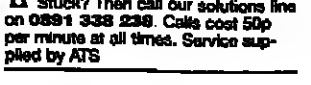


CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,367

18 ... college where labour is not hard (7)
20 Rubbish wagon tipped over another vehicle (7)
21 It could make one's name a mystery to oneself (7)
22 Subscribe a pound as a token (6)
25 See 13

Solution tomorrow
23 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 238. Calls cost 50p per minute plus 23p. Service supplied by ATS.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.7% of the new material for the Guardian in the first of 1997.



Inside

Life insurance is a small price to pay to safeguard your family's future and with Virgin Direct, it'll probably cost less than you'd imagine. A 30-year old in good health will pay under £10 a month to assure their family of £50,000 should the unthinkable happen.

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